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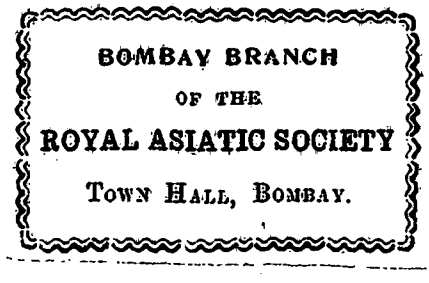


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SELECTIONS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT IN THE POLICE BRANCH.

No. I.—New Series.

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# REPORTS AND RETURNS

RELATING TO THE CRIMES OF

# THUGGEE AND DACOITY;

## CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO ACT No. XXIX. OF 1850;

## PAPERS ON THE SUBJECT OF CONFESSIONS;

WITH

## REPORTS ON AND LIST OF WANDERING TRIBES.

COMPILED AND EDITED

BY

MAJOR C. R. W. HERVEY, 2ND EUR. REGT. L. I.,

ASSISTANT GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT THUGGEE AND DACOITY DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY

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EDUCATION SOCIETY'S PRESS, BYCULLA.

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364.13
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# THUGGEE AND DACOITY.

No. 8 of 1854.

From J. D. Inverarity, Esq.,
Political Agent, Southern Muratha Country,

To C. J. Erskine, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to Government, Bombay.

*Dated* 11*th January* 1854.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 69, dated 6th instant, in the 7th and 8th paragraphs of which is required the expression of my views on the point whether the whole tribe of Kaikarees, being apparently amenable to the charge of being professional Dacoits, &c., it would not suffice, when the evidence consists exclusively of the narratives of approvers, to bring to trial the most notorious amongst them, such as Naiks, leaders of gangs, and those who have been implicated in dacoities of an aggravated character.

2. In reply, I beg to state that, from the evidence adduced before me in late Dacoit trials, I gather that dacoity is emphatically a profession, though not necessarily a hereditary one;* that its active duties are entered on at the age of sixteen; and that though agriculture, mat-making, snake-charming, conjuring, and similar callings, are ostensibly employments of these professionals, their real source of subsistence is plunder. Burria Naik,† an old Dacoit, affirms that he has committed "robberies without number—four or five every month, since he was sixteen years of age." Dod Sahibya,‡ a famed Dacoit, affirms,—"But as for the burglaries he has committed, they are as numerous as the hairs of his head." Kullolia Naik§ affirms that he "has committed, with

* Nagia, approver No. 1 in proceedings submitted with my letter No. 167, dated 27th July 1853, states: "His ancestors were not Dacoits; he himself entered on the profession."

† No. 2 of proceedings submitted with letter No. 151, dated 9th July 1853.

‡ No. 1 of proceedings submitted with letter No. 183, dated 22nd August 1853.

§ No. 5 of same proceedings.

his father, and independently of him, about five hundred burglaries." "Burglaries," he adds, "are committed in the dark nights. If there be obtained a good booty, a monthly burglary contented them; if not, burglary was their nightly occupation during the dark nights."

3. I further gather, that Jail discipline is ineffective in weaning men from this profession. Kuree Sahibya, approver* (who was not a Naik), affirms that he "was with three others, at a former time, punished for a robbery at Yekoondee, with three years' imprisonment. On release from Jail, reverted to his old calling of dacoity and robbery." Hoolgia, approver,† affirms: "Was in Jail for five years, on conviction for a robbery at Hunmunhullee. Geerya was engaged with him, but escaped conviction. Tooljia was convicted, though not engaged in the robbery. After release, they reverted to their profession of robbery and dacoity."

4. The organisation of Kulkorwee Dacoits in the Southern Muratha Country is a peculiar feature. Their leaders, or Naiks, are not so by hereditary right. They owe their elevation to their superiority in spirit and address, and their followers pay them a ready obedience. A Kulkorwee Naik's quota ranges from three to seven or eight men; burglaries are generally committed by independent quotas. A combination of quotas is necessary when open gang robbery is to be committed. In all cases, every disposition is made, and every information regarding the premises to be plundered obtained, beforehand, so that, in the actual attack and plunder, little difficulty is experienced by the depredators. The infirm, and those accidentally prevented from joining the adventure, receive a share of the booty; a portion being also assigned for the support of widows, and those who cannot help themselves.

5. Dacoits are not necessarily Kaikarees, or Kulkorwees. The proceedings submitted with my letter No. 191, dated 1st September 1853, show an organised gang of villagers,—Muratha Beruds following this calling; and the dacoity at Bussapoor, in the Belgaum Magistracy, in March 1852, was perpetrated by villagers who had combined for the purpose, and who, apparently, were aided by Sonars, who received the property stolen. Neither does it appear to me that Naiks, and leaders of gangs, are necessarily the most notorious among their comrades. The confession of Bhowanee, commonly called Galkut Bhowanee, who was not a Naik, submitted with my letter No. 190, dated 31st August 1853, shows him to have been a cold-blooded murderer and Dacoit.

6. With a knowledge of the circumstances stated above, I am not of opinion that it would suffice to bring to trial the most notorious Dacoits, such as Naiks, leaders of gangs, and those who have been implicated in dacoities of an aggra-

* No. 5 of proceedings submitted with letter No. 167, dated 27th July 1853.

† No. 6 same proceedings.

vated character. I think the Officers of the Dacoity Department must be allowed a wide discretion in this matter, and that the specific law applicable to the case should be allowed to take effect on every conviction. Though Kulkorwee and Kaikaree Naiks have been seized and convicted through the exertions of Captain Hervey, yet the organisation of the tribes has been in no measure crushed, though a severe blow has been dealt to them. Though subdued for the time in the Southern Muratha Country, their operations are being carried on in the neighbouring Bellary Magistracy, where forty-nine dacoities occurred last year, as stated by Captain Hervey in his letter No. 176, dated 26th ultimo, submitted to Government on the 3rd instant with my letter in the Judicial Department No. 1.

7. In the 9th paragraph of your letter under reply, I am directed to state whether, with reference to the great numbers of Dacoits sentenced to transportation, some provision for their families be not called for. In reply, I would state that the numbers sentenced to transportation from these districts bears but a small proportion to those still at large, and that their families, by the custom of the tribe, are provided for by those who remain.

8. I am not aware of the arrangements adopted in the North-Western Provinces for the encouragement of industrial habits among members of predatory tribes; but I am inclined to think that the success of any colonial organisation must, in a very great measure, depend upon the strictness of the supervision exercised. Loss of personal liberty I believe to be an essential, for otherwise the members of this colony would, from predilection and inveteracy of habit, use their freedom to indulge old tastes, by entering upon nocturnal expeditions, and to promote evil by communicating with old associates beyond the colony. The women of these tribes are excellent couriers, and the celerity with which they communicate information to great distances is remarkable. However much humanity may require the amelioration of these tribes, a change in their habits is not, I think, to be accomplished by a free colonial organisation; but I am persuaded much good would ensue, were Captain Hervey authorised to establish at this place a Penitentiary and School of Industry for convicts, approvers, and their families, such as exist at Jubbulpore. A few such Schools in different parts of India would, in the course of a generation or two, eradicate the evil habits which the members of these tribes contract from their earliest childhood.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) J. D. Inverarity,
Political Agent Southern Muratha Country.

*Political Agent's Office, Belgaum, 11th January* 1854.

## EXTRACT PARAGRAPHS 1, 5, AND THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS OF CAPTAIN HERVEY'S LETTER No. 8 TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT, DATED 24TH JANUARY 1854.

1. I have had the honour to receive your letter under date 6th instant, No. 68, calling my attention to the wishes of Government in the preparation by me of future cases submitted for final trial; and desiring me to furnish my opinion "whether it may not suffice to bring to trial only the most notorious Dacoits, such as Naiks, leaders of gangs, and those who may have been implicated in dacoities of an aggravated character."

5. On the other subjects of your letter, namely whether it would not be sufficient to proceed only against the leaders of Dacoits, and whether some due provision for the families of those who have been convicted is not now urgently required, or some colony established, in which they might be encouraged to industrial habits, I have the honour to submit, that from what I have learnt of the habits of professional Dacoits, it would, in my humble opinion, be not only attended with very evil consequences to proceed against but the principals of gangs, of which every member almost is an expert gang robber, and capable at any time to conduct a dacoity, but that to do so would render, in a manner, nugatory, the best efforts of the Department in suppressing a crime of such magnitude as dacoity by professional gang robbers, handed down, as such a profession has been to them, from time out of mind.

6. To lead to a proper understanding of what I would take the liberty to advance in support of such an opinion on so important a subject, I would venture to trespass upon the time of Government with the following observations, supporting the same with a few prominent out of many corroborative circumstances that have happened within my own official knowledge.

7. The law especially enacted for the "better prevention of the crime of dacoity" (Act XXIV. of 1843) was considered necessary, as ensuring "more stringent measures for the conviction of professional Dacoits, systematically employed in carrying on their lawless pursuits in different parts of the country." Such are the words of that law. It determines, as was and is notorious, that such people exist throughout the empire, and that they must be put down; and, therefore, that *whoever* shall be proved to have belonged at any past or future period to any such gang of Dacoits, anywhere, within or without the Territories of the East India Company, *shall be punished;* the Act of the Legislature thus leaving no discretionary powers, I submit with great respect, to any authority, short of directing the punishment of *every* Dacoit.

8. The instructions issued to me by Mr. Secretary Lumsden, in his letter

No. 6382, under date 29th October 1850, were that I should take every precaution against the acquittal of any Dacoit prisoners.

9. The Honorable the Court of Directors, in their despatch to the Government of India No. 27, dated 18th September 1850, forwarded for my guidance, stated (paragraph 140), that they felt it "necessary to renew their injunctions that none of the effectual precautions originally adopted for the security of the criminals (hereditary gangs of Dacoits, &c.) be suffered to be in the slightest degree relaxed"; adding, in their letter to the Bombay Government No. 18, under date 1st August 1849, paragraph 5, that "they hoped the measures adopted for the suppression of the crime would be as effectual under the Bombay Presidency as they had proved elsewhere in India."

10. In my Report to Government, No. 110, dated 10th July 1849, and in subsequent despatches, I have shown that the Dacoits, against whom I have been conducting operations, *were all professional gang robbers by hereditary descent;* that, with unbounded license, they had systematically parcelled out among them the whole country, each partition forming the "preserve" of the gang to which it had been apportioned; that poverty urged them no more in their evil practices, than the desire to earn a livelihood propelled any operator to frequent efforts in his vocation; and that the punishments hitherto awarded them *had not served to check them from wrong-doing.*

11. The annexed minutes of a meeting of Dacoits I lately held show to what extent such efforts on the part of these Dacoits have been renewed; that incarceration has been to them but a temporary calamity—temporarily affecting their liberties, not repressing their evil propensities.

12. An inhabitant of the tract of country that formed the beat or preserve appertaining to Balia,* and Nad Tookya, Naiks, has, in the proceedings in that case, in speaking to the dangerous character of these Dacoits, declared—"I swear by Ishwur, that what I have said is truth; but should this be told to these people, and they at any time be released, and come back, they will have their revenge against us, and ruin us; and I represent this to the Sirkar, that precautions may be taken against them for the future, to enable the ryots to live out of fear." Another, in the same case, that the Dacoits "were always moving about—in harvest-time plundering the fields; the cultivators, from the dread their revengeful character created, refraining from any complaint against them"; but that, since their arrest, "no one's house was robbed, everyone living in ease." Another, in the same case, declaring they were "always eating, and drinking, and squabbling—never labouring; their women extorting grain from the cultivators, through the fear the tribe was held in."

* Case No. XII. of 1853, tried by Mr. Inverarity, Political Agent Southern Muratha Country.

13. In the same case, approver Bheema has detailed how, because a ryot, to prevent one of their women from carrying off the ears of corn she had been pilfering from his field, had snatched away a blanket from one of them, the act was "taken to heart," a gang was assembled at night, the entire threshing-floor plundered, and the man's life taken.

14. Although represented by me to be not a part of the system of the Dacoits infesting the territories comprehending this Presidency to design murder, their outrages have, as my proceedings amply testify, been attended with violence and bloodshed, and often with murder.

15. Plundered parties, crowding my Court, have reiterated the statements already on the records of the local Magistrates, of the sudden rushing into their houses, in the dead of night, of fierce men, with muffled faces or daubed with streaks of paint, holding lighted torches, and armed with swords or bludgeons; of the remorseless rapine they committed; of terrified wives and daughters, with lacerated ears and nostrils, injured wrists and ankles; of affrighted old men and women, and younger men with broken heads, or sore from blows and buffets; of doors and windows broken down, and closets and boxes laid open and gutted; rooms rifled; their household gods desecrated, their sanctities invaded, and themselves ruined, often past redemption, by ruthless scoundrels, whose only excuse for such acts has been *that such was their profession:* no succour at hand,—the village guardians concealing themselves, the neighbours mute and in the deepest awe,—they, in terror, had to succumb to the outrage, and every indignity, uncared for; till the noise of shouts and musket-shots, the sounding of conches and drums, and the bombastic entry into the premises of the village authorities, now come to assist them, made them feel some assurance of the robbers being really gone, and themselves left alive!

16. In the Bagulkote gang robbery, the owner of the house, a rich banker, but a feeble and aged man, being speared by a Dacoit, a young lad, his grandson and heir, rushed forward to hold up the murdered man:—"Fifty rupees for you, beyond your share of the spoils, if you kill him!" cried out the Naik of the gang to one of the bandits; and the lad was slain on the spot! A nephew succeeded to the estate; two of the Dacoits were hanged: the house was one day found in flames, and was burnt to the ground; the nephew soon after died, after a short illness. The husbandless survivors, forbidden by their laws to re-marry, and without any male heir, are now the sole representatives of the once flourishing firm!

17. In the case of the Kullolee gang robbery, the plundered party declared that the robbers "essayed in vain to withdraw from the wrists of his son" (a young lad) a pair of silver bracelets." A Dacoit thereupon suggested that his hands should be lopped off; another, that his arms should be broken: a knife was produced, and they prepared to do the deed, but again endeavoured to get

the bracelets off by other means. "They dragged and pulled at them, and then tried by applying oil. Next they rubbed the arms over with rice husks, and at last succeeded in getting possession of the coveted ornaments, only after they had excoriated and lacerated the poor lad's hands." They treated similarly a little boy in the Butgeera dacoity, and in the same way a young girl in a gang robbery in the Tanna Collectorate; and in a dacoity at Hutnee, they were on the point of "chopping off the feet of another young girl," in order to gain possession of a pair of silver chain anklets, but only desisted on being implored by her mother to refrain.

18. For such acts of pillage, too, it has been exemplified *that others than the guilty parties have suffered punishment.*

19. It will have been perceived, likewise, frequently in the cases sent up from this Office for trial, that it has been testified, the terror the people of the districts generally have been relieved from, by the proceedings of the Department against these robbers: "People are now able to sleep," says one man in a case now under preparation; another, that "while the robbers were at large they inspired great fear, no one knowing what they might not be about; but that now no robberies took place, and the minds of the people were at ease."

20. Though such has been the testimony borne to the feeling of security evinced by the subjects of Government while the operations against the Dacoits proceeded; on the other hand, there was much alarm spread everywhere when it became known that several of them had been acquitted by the Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut. "Since (reports a Police Amuldar in a case now pending trial) the operations of this Agency against the Kaikaree tribe, his Talooka had enjoyed much prosperity, the ryots being happy; and, excepting that they were aware of the people of certain villages having been in concert with the robbers, there had been no fear anywhere; but that now, *owing to the rumour of several of the robbers having been set at large, people had begun again to be alarmed*"; and that if I would "but take some effectual measures against the tribe, it would tend much to the comfort of the ryots, as a proof of the regard for them on the part of Government."

21. On the subject, again, of colonising these predatory tribes, in my report to Mr. Secretary Lumsden, No. 114, dated 23rd November 1848, I ventured an opinion "that such a measure must be found practically to be most difficult of accomplishment." I stated, that their habits of life were unsettled—rapine was inherent in their natures; that they were predisposed to subsist by open depredation, from it having formed their *only means* of livelihood; and that, owing to their peculiar and exclusive habits and customs of intermarriage, &c. such persons in any colony, in our agricultural districts, would always be very troublesome neighbours, *unless forced by pressure to*

*blend with the rest of the community, to forego their caste distinctions,* and to earn their livelihood, like other men, *by honest industry;* but which, I represented, might, except they were all *convicted* robbers, be with justice regarded as an infringement upon the liberty of the subject, of which we are all so jealous; and even, if enforced, "would, as impelling a very difficult people to civilisation, require such continued efforts, and sustained zeal and vigilance, as in the end, I thought, would be found nearly impracticable, and supererogatory."

22. In a subsequent report, to Mr. Lumsden's letter No. 83, dated 19th March 1850, I proposed that, as the tribe mustered a numerous body of hardy and indefatigable men, I thought a large number of them would be ready to serve Government, *after conviction and sentence,* as a detective police. This was rejected, as not to be entertained for a moment; and Colonel Sleeman, in his report to Government No. 1525, dated 26th November 1850, said that he thought the rejection of my proposal very judicious, as that such classes of offenders should be thinly mixed up with establishments composed of other and untainted classes, in order that they might gradually lose all those class feelings and habits which tend to separate them from the rest of society, and that their children might grow up like those of other people, altogether free from such habits and feelings; also that their sentences should meanwhile remain suspended over them, to be carried into full or partial execution on all occasions of misconduct.

23. Alluding, however, to my report above adverted to, in paragraph 21, Colonel Sleeman stated in the same letter, paragraph 28, his belief *that no advantage would arise from colonising such people,* or of placing guardians over them; that he had known of numerous instances *in which both had failed,* and *not one in which either had succeeded;* that small police guards have been placed near such robber colonies as guardians, but *that they have always been found to connive at their offences, from motives of fear and of interest.*

24. As a remarkable example of the difficulty of reforming such people, I would here submit to notice what has happened within my own experience. Owing to his years, and, as I thought, his infirmity, I had permitted an aged Kaikaree Dacoit of eighty, who had so long ceased from taking any active part in dacoity that no one of the approvers with me had been his actual accomplice in any robbery, to reside in the lines of the Department at this Station; also a young Kaikaree lad who had not yet been present in any gang robbery. Three other lads, whom I had before released for the same reason, also another old man between sixty and seventy years of age, whom also I had looked upon as an "unfit," I suffered to reside in the neighbourhood, having obtained employment for all as daily labourers on the roads

under the Executive Engineer, with the exception of the first old man, who was too aged to perform any manual labour. After some months, I was very much concerned at learning of some gang robberies having taken place in the immediate vicinity of Belgaum! I felt, that as I was then engaged in having so many Dacoits punished, it was not likely that any distant gang would be so bold as to visit this neighbourhood; and I began strongly to suspect that some of the people about me were concerned. After some little time, I succeeded in ascertaining, beyond every doubt, that the above persons formed indeed the gang, fostered, in a manner, by myself! Four of them admitted the fact: the first old man had obtained all preliminary information as to the houses to be robbed—he planned the robberies; the second old man conducted them in person; the lads formed his gang. It had been regularly organised, and everything that was done had been done systematically. The responsibility of this fact seemed to me to be enormous.

25. It will be a curious coincidence if the above circumstance should operate with Government more strongly than anything else I have advanced against the leniency proposed to be exercised. To be compelled to oppose clemency, and not to meet in the same spirit the magnanimity by which it has been prompted, is the most humiliating feature of my duties; but I am assured that Government will feel, from what I have shown, that protection to the lives and property of its peaceable subjects is the paramount consideration. I indulge, even, in the hope that it will be perceived, that while such an atrocious crime as dacoity continues to be practised by a people who have for generations been a pest to the inhabitants of the country at large, that while such people continue addicted to their evil habits and tendencies, the time cannot have arrived to relax any of the measures that have been adopted to suppress them.

26. I have shown how, before my proceedings against Dacoits, *they flourished under this Presidency with impunity.* In my letter to Mr. Lumsden, No. 4, under date 7th January 1853, I represented that, at liberty, they practised "what all had at heart, and none looked upon as criminal." Colonel Sleeman also, in a report to the Bombay Government, stated, what years of experience had caused to be a conviction in his mind, that if any of the members of Dacoit associations were restored to liberty, *they would assuredly return to the crime.* Two young Dacoits, released by me at Poona in February 1850, because they had not taken part in any dacoity with any of the approvers then with me, *engaged in November of the same year in a gang robbery in the Sholapore Collectorate.* One youth was killed, the other wounded and captured. Brought to me, he gave me a detailed account of *twenty-six similar acts of crime* in which he had been an accomplice *before*

under the Executive Engineer, with the exception of the first old man, who was too aged to perform any manual labour. After some months, I was very much concerned at learning of some gang robberies having taken place in the immediate vicinity of Belgaum! I felt, that as I was then engaged in having so many Dacoits punished, it was not likely that any distant gang would be so bold as to visit this neighbourhood; and I began strongly to suspect that some of the people about me were concerned. After some little time, I succeeded in ascertaining, beyond every doubt, that the above persons formed indeed the gang, fostered, in a manner, by myself! Four of them admitted the fact: the first old man had obtained all preliminary information as to the houses to be robbed—he planned the robberies; the second old man conducted them in person; the lads formed his gang. It had been regularly organised, and everything that was done had been done systematically. The responsibility of this fact seemed to me to be enormous.

25. It will be a curious coincidence if the above circumstance should operate with Government more strongly than anything else I have advanced against the leniency proposed to be exercised. To be compelled to oppose clemency, and not to meet in the same spirit the magnanimity by which it has been prompted, is the most humiliating feature of my duties; but I am assured that Government will feel, from what I have shown, that protection to the lives and property of its peaceable subjects is the paramount consideration. I indulge, even, in the hope that it will be perceived, that while such an atrocious crime as dacoity continues to be practised by a people who have for generations been a pest to the inhabitants of the country at large, that while such people continue addicted to their evil habits and tendencies, the time cannot have arrived to relax any of the measures that have been adopted to suppress them.

26. I have shown how, before my proceedings against Dacoits, *they flourished under this Presidency with impunity.* In my letter to Mr. Lumsden, No. 4, under date 7th January 1853, I represented that, at liberty, they practised "what all had at heart, and none looked upon as criminal." Colonel Sleeman also, in a report to the Bombay Government, stated, what years of experience had caused to be a conviction in his mind, that if any of the members of Dacoit associations were restored to liberty, *they would assuredly return to the crime.* Two young Dacoits, released by me at Poona in February 1850, because they had not taken part in any dacoity with any of the approvers then with me, *engaged in November of the same year in a gang robbery in the Sholapore Collectorate.* One youth was killed, the other wounded and captured. Brought to me, he gave me a detailed account of *twenty-six similar acts of crime* in which he had been an accomplice *before*

reside at Tanna, which was conceded, as communicated to me in a letter from Mr. Secretary Lumsden, No. 6347, dated 7th August 1852, and it might be ascertained what number of them may have done so, and how they have employed themselves; for although I have represented the objections I entertain to such a measure in the present stage of the proceedings of the Department, any experiment in affording people so circumstanced an asylum, and means of subsistence, is worthy of the consideration of a humane Government.

31. It has long been my desire to establish a School of Industry, such as exists at the Head Quarters of the Department at Jubbulpore, as Government will have perceived from some late communications from me; but such an institution could only be intended, as at Jubbulpore, to hold out employment and education to the families and children of the approvers of the establishment. After a fair commencement, however, and prospects of future success in such an undertaking, I think the benefits to be derived from it might, and should be extended to all those who will consent to join it, and abide by its regulations.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. Hervey, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

*Assistant General Superintendent's Office,*
*Belgaum, 24th January* 1854.

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Minutes *of a* Dacoit Durbar *held by Captain* Hervey, *Assistant General Superintendent, at Belgaum, on the* 16*th January* 1854.

*Present,*—thirty-three Dacoit approvers.

They are called upon to state how often any of them may have been in prison; and whether, on being released, they desisted from committing robberies or not?

They make the following statements:—

*Approver Sunnia* was seven years in the Rutnagherry Jail, for a gang robbery at a Waree near Innêree,* with ten or twelve others of his caste (two died in Jail), as well as two Hindoo accomplices. All the others, including self, on their release, *reverted to the crime successfully for about seventeen years;* deponent committing in that subsequent interval *about fifty-nine dacoities.* Lutchmun Naik was one of the number; and he (Lutchmun) with

* This was about the year 1829.

deponent, again got seized for another gang robbery at Kolmah, near Rutnagherry.* Lutchmun was *not actually present* in that robbery, *but he was sentenced to life transportation.* The rest of those seized at the same time, including approvers Mussoo Naik, Kurroo Naik, and Ellia Kongaria, and deponent, *who all were in the robbery,* were released about nine months subsequently. *All again reverted to the crime.* Lutchmun effected his escape from the Tanna Jail, and, rejoining the tribe at Poona, went off, first to those of the caste practising in the Beer tracts (in the Moghullai), from where, after committing several robberies with Gondah Naik and others of those beats, he rejoined his former associates, and, with them, *continued to carry on gang robbery in the Poona, Nuggur, Khandeish, Moghullai, and Sattara countries;* till at last he was, with six others, *again* seized for a robbery at Kullêdhoon, in the Khanapoor Péta; after going through a sentence *for which* of three years, awarded by the Commissioner of Sattara, he was sent here, and was lately again sentenced to life transportation.†

*Approver Moria,* for a gang robbery at Tass, in the Poona Zilla, was, with another, imprisoned for five years in the Poona Jail. After release, *both reverted to the crime,* and he continued to commit gang robberies up to the date of his recent arrest.

*Approvers Bappoo Naik* and *Oongta Naik* were seized, with many others of the tribe, for a gang robbery at Oottoor, near Joonere. Thirteen were released, but Oongta and six others were imprisoned for seven years in the Poona Jail; *all, after liberation, reverting to the crime,* round about Poona, Nuggur, Tanna, &c.

*Approvers Oongta Naik, Posia, Timma, Satwa,* and *Raojee,* and about twenty-five or twenty-six others of the tribe, were subsequently imprisoned for about eighteen months in the Surat Jail, for a robbery at Bulsar (Surat). On release, *all again committed several robberies,* except Raojee, who got seven years' imprisonment, and who, on being sent to Belgaum, became an approver, and was the first man that ever disclosed their system.

*Approver Hunmunta,* on suspicion of having been engaged in plundering some people at the 'juttra' at Allundee, was, with another, imprisoned for five years, including six months' solitary confinement in the Poona Jail. They were *not really guilty of any concern in that plunder. On release, they returned to the crime.* This was about seven or so years ago.

*Approvers Nad Tookya* and *Galkut Bhowanee,* and *Hoossenee Naik,* at large,

* Which took place on the night of the 23rd May 1836.

† While lately in the Dharwar Jail, under this sentence, in a ward with some others similarly sentenced, he instructed them how to break out of Jail, which he now *a second time* actually did with them! but all became captured next day.

(Signed) C. Hervey.

with others, for a robbery at Goolsar, in the Moolgoond Jageer, were taken to Dharwar. They were released about a year subsequently, *and went on doing their work of robbery.*

*Approver Galkut Bhowanee* subsequently, on account of a gang robbery at Bhooyal (Sholapore), got three years' hard labour in the Sholapore Jail, and, on release, *went on doing what he has always done.*

*Approver Kullolia Naik Shorapooree*, and the above *Hoossenee*, were in confinement three months on account of a robbery at Dharwar, which, however, was done by the approver's father. On release, they rejoined the fraternity. Subsequently, he (Kullolia) and others were again seized, on account of a 'ghurphôree'* at Hulgoondee. He (Kullolia) had no part in that business, though his brother Baldunda had. Three months subsequently, they were released from Almillà, *and again reverted to the crime.* He got again seized for a robbery at Jetgee; *he was seized in the fact*, but *was released* about three or four months subsequently, *and he returned to the crime.*

*Approver Nad Tookya* was seized for the Lalsingee robbery (Sholapore), and some months subsequently was released; and he then *committed several robberies* up to the date of his late capture for the Salotgee robbery.

*Approvers Nad Tookya* and *Galkut Bhowanee* were again in confinement, for a grain-field gang robbery at Nad, for six months, after fulfilling which *they again committed more.*

*Approver Jamgar Tooljia* was for eighteen months in the Dharwar Jail, as an escaped convict from a Jail in those days at Bagulkote, where he had been sentenced for a robbery at Sirole. On release, *he returned to the crime.* He was lately again seized at Chimulgee, with approver Kulloria Ekankhee (or One-eyed Kulloria), and eleven more, for a subsequent robbery at Ursungee. He (Jamgar Tooljia) and eleven men were fined, and released, and then he went *and committed two more robberies*, for the last of which, viz. at Sindagee, he got seven years, under which sentence he now is. Approver Ekankhee Kulloria was brought to Belgaum.

*Approver Kullolia Naik Shorapooree* was, with another, seized, with the plunder in their possession, for a gang robbery at Jalee Benchee, in the Shorapoor Bedur Elaka, and fined Rs. 700; *after which they returned to the crime.* In the same way, he and another were seized for another robbery at Gogee (Shorapoor Bedur Elaka), and fined Rs. 200. They were released, *and again practised the crime. In the same way*, for another robbery at Sirole, in the same Elaka, when he was again fined Rs. 200 and released. Also, for another robbery in the same Elaka, committed by others, was he, with two others of the tribe, seized, and fined in a sum of Rs. 400, and then again released, *reverting to the crime.*

* House-breaking or burglary.

*Approver Bheemsya*, and about five others, got confined for six months at Poona, for a robbery upon some Dungurs, near Pêt (Poona). *On release, they returned to the crime.* In the same way, he, with approvers Dadia, Musya, Sutwya, Jukkya, Wenkia, Fukeera, Sonia, and about ten others, for a robbery at Tass, was seized and kept in confinement for six months. After trial and *acquittal* by the Judge, *all reverted to the crime.* They had entertained a Vakeel!

*Approvers Bappoo Naik, Bheemsya, Mussoo, Sutwa, Musya, Kurroo, Timma*, and about ten or twelve others, for a gang robbery at Mekree, close to Chand Beebee (Nuggur), were in confinement for some little time. All were released, *and returned to the crime.*

*Approver Dadia*, for a robbery at Bullégaum, was, with about thirteen others, seized. Four were taken to Captain Morris, at Ayejee-Maejee. After three or four months' detention, they were released, *and returned to the crime.*

*Approver Dod Sahibya Naik* was, with some others of the tribe, confined by Mr. Baber, for three years, in the Dharwar Jail.* Released by Mr. Nesbitt, *all reverted to the crime.*

*Approver Runga Naik* was, with two others, seized for a ghurphôree on the Police Koolkurnee at Bheemungur, which they had not committed. After confinement for three months, Mr. Hadow released them, *and they returned to the crime.*

*Approver Mudgia* was cut down, and seized, when on a dacoity expedition in the Hoolikeree limits, Badamee Talooka. Six others were also seized. They were all released a month or so afterwards, *and reverted to their profession of gang robbery and burglary.*

*Approvers Ramgirree Tooljia*, and *Hoolgia*, &c. were, eight in all, seized for a ghurphôree or burglary at Hunmunall (Bunkapoor Talooka, Dharwar). The others were guilty of that business, *but not Ramgirree Tooljia.* He and Hoolgia, and two others, were sent to the Tanna Jail for five years. A fifth dying en route, the three others were imprisoned in the Dharwar Jail for six months under requisitions for security, while three more were released. *All, on liberation, committed several gang robberies and burglaries.*

*Approver Nagia*, a naturalised Korwee Dacoit, was, with four or five others, in the Dharwar Jail for two years, awarded by Mr. Thackeray, for a burglary at Hooblee. On release, "*they all did again as they had been brought up to do.*"

*Approver Burria Naik*, and three others, were in the Dharwar Jail—awarded by Mr. Simson, for a robbery upon Mr. LeGeyt at Dharwar—for three years. Three others, including both Tooljias, were also seized, but were released. This was about twenty years ago; *and all have since committed several gang robberies and burglaries.*

* In 1824 or 1825.

*Approver Burria Naik* afterwards, in a burglary at Kittoor, got a sword-wound on the hand, and, being seized, was in the Dharwar Jail for six months; *after which he again returned to the crime.*

*Approver Nursia*, for a burglary at Gubboor (Dharwar), was seized, and in the Dharwar Jail for four years; and since his release has, with others of his tribe, and with several Dacoits of the *Wuddur* class, *committed several other robberies.*

*Approver Kurree Sahibya*, for a burglary at Hindusgeeree, near Misreekota, was in prison for six months, and for a subsequent robbery at Lukoondee (committed with Ramgirree Tooljia and others), with four others, was sent for three years to the Tanna Jail. One died while in it, and the others, after release, *again engaged in the crime of gang robbery and burglary.* He was again, with several others of the tribe, including approver Purwa, for a burglary at Kotbal (Raneebednoor Talooka), which they had not committed, but which was done by others of the tribe, kept for six months by Mr. Goldfinch on conjee diet. *On release, they reverted to the crime.*

*Approver Hoolgia* was again in confinement in the Dharwar Jail for two years, on account of a burglary at Honullee (Misreekota Talooka), after which he rejoined the tribe, *and went on committing robberies.*

*Approver Andoo Mhang*, village watchman, for a gang robbery at Padlee, in the Sattara State, was, with another, in the Sattara Jail for six years. On liberation, they each got two dozen stripes, and were seated upon donkeys, and their 'abroo' taken; *but they both again committed several robberies,* till he and four others got again seized for a gang robbery at Pooségaum. He thus got imprisoned for six years again, and three of the others for three years each, in the Sattara Jail. The three were flogged on release. *They reverted to the crime.*

Besides the above specified instances, the occasions have been numerous of their seizure, temporary restraint, and release. *On every occasion they returned to the crime.*

Of the twenty-seven men of the Mohole Sholapore gang lately released at Dharwar by an order from the Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut, after they had been sentenced to transportation for life, ten have not yet been re-seized. They joined the gangs in the Moghullai, *and, in a gang robbery they lately committed in the Goonjotee Purguna, two of the number have been killed.* One of the latter (Ghora Khundaria) *was of the above ten.* This was within a month after their release from Dharwar!*

*Approver Bheema* was, with his brother *Murree,* released by the Saheb

* They afterwards committed several other desperate dacoities, but have all been once more seized.—March 1858.

(Signed) C. Hervey.

(Captain Hervey) at Poona (February 1850). They joined Balia Naik's gang, *and in it committed the gang robbery at Singnapoor* (3rd November 1850), and Murree got killed in it. Approvers *Bhed Tookya* and *Kurta Sutwa* were present in that robbery.

*" Scarcely a man of our fraternity but who has been at some time or other in confinement. As often as we were released, we would rejoin our gangs, and commit other robberies. For a very few of us had ever been transported prior to the present proceedings against the tribe.*

*" In the same way have most of those who have lately been transported on committals from the Saheb (Captain Hervey), as well as those now in custody, been more or less in confinement; on liberation they committed dacoity."*

*Question by Captain Hervey.*—How would it be *now*, if any of you had your liberty?

*Answer* (in several directions).—" Sir, we are your servants! We could not again do as before; the Sirkar being now so resolved to hinder us."

*Question.*—Hunmunta (an old Dacoit): you remain silent; speak out,—what think you?

*Answer by Hunmunta.*—*" Saheb, except we were prevented, we would all do as we have always done."*

(Signed) CHARLES HERVEY, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

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No. 61.

THUGGEE AND DACOITY DEPARTMENT.

To H. L. ANDERSON, Esq.,
Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my Annual Report of the operations of this Department for the year 1855.

2. In the early part of the year the Office was, during my absence on duty in the Punjaub, under the charge of Lieutenant Frederick Schneider,* in whose custody I had left but one Dacoit prisoner; but by the end of the year, ten others were received by him from the Districts; thus eleven untried prisoners were in custody on the 31st December 1854.

3. The following is a statement of the proceedings of Lieutenant Schneider up to the date of my resuming the Office in June last, viz:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Under investigation at the end of 1854 ..... | 11 | Dacoits. |
| Admitted from January to June 1855 ..... | 19 | „ |
| Received from other quarters during the same period..... | 35 | „ |
| Total.... | 65 | „ |

* From the 11th October 1854 to 6th June 1855.

Disposed of, namely,—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Discharged | 7 | Dacoits. |
| Made approver | 1 | „ |
| Committed for trial in six cases | 8 | „ |
| Finally sentenced by him as Assistant Magistrate | 3 | „ |
| Made over to the local authorities | 23 | „ |
| Deceased before trial | 1 | „ |
| Total.... | 43 | „ |
| Under examination when relieved by me | 22 | „ |

4. One of the cases (No. V. of 1855) committed for trial by that Officer was of a Kaikaree for a dacoity, attended with murder, at Munnoor, in the Mungolee Talooka of the Sholapore Collectorate, in March 1854. There was not any approver to this dacoity, but the man had admitted the offence to Lieutenant Schneider; and although he denied it on his final trial, he was convicted and sentenced to life transportation, which enabled me to bring up two others for the same dacoity (case No. IX. of 1855), and which also resulted in their conviction and sentence to life transportation, commuted by Government to seven years' imprisonment with hard labour.

5. With his letter to your address No. 55, under date 10th April 1855, Lieutenant Schneider submitted an account of certain murders that had been confessed to before him by a man of the 'Chapabund' class (who, with another, had been sent to this Office by the Magistrate of Sholapore); the habits of which people, as money-coiners, I had frequently brought to the notice of Government; and as one of the murders was, on a reference to the Commissioner for Mysore, ascertained to have really taken place, both men were, through the Magistrate of Sholapore, forwarded to Mysore for trial, the result whereof has not been communicated to this Department.

6. Lieutenant Schneider, moreover, caused the seizure, at Indee, of a general receiver of stolen goods, information regarding whom had been previously recorded by me; but, owing to the man's precautions, not any of the property discovered in his house was satisfactorily recognised to warrant his committal for trial, and he was consequently released by me on furnishing security for his future good conduct.

7. The following is a statement of Dacoit prisoners examined during the year under report, *including* the investigations of Lieutenant Schneider, namely:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Under investigation at the end of 1854 | 11 |
| Apprehended during 1855 | 19 |
| Received from the districts during 1855 | 52 |
| Total.... | 82 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Released | 18 |
| Made approvers | 3 |
| Deceased before trial | 1 |
| Committed for trial, exclusive of two approvers | 24 |
| Sent to the Extra Assistant General Superintendent at Hyderabad | 2 |
| Finally sentenced by the Assistant General Superintendent | 3 |
| Made over to the local authorities | 29 |
| Total | 80 |

Remaining under investigation on the 31st December 1855..... 2

8. The following was the result of the trials in the Court of the Political Agent Southern Muratha Country of fifteen cases,* in which twenty-six men had been committed, including two approvers, viz:—

Sentenced,—

| | |
|---|---|
| To four years' imprisonment with hard labour | 3 |
| To seven years' ditto ditto | 6 |
| To twelve years' ditto ditto | 1 |
| To fourteen years' ditto ditto | 1 |
| To transportation beyond seas for the term of their natural lives | 15 |
| Acquitted | 0 |
| Total | 26 |

9. These cases were reviewed by Government, by whom the convictions were confirmed; but the sentences were commuted as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| To four years' imprisonment with hard labour | 3 men (Wuddurs). |
| To five years' ditto ditto | 1 |
| To seven years' ditto ditto | 16; two being Mhangs and one a Wuddur. |
| To life transportation | 6; two being Mhang approvers. |
| Total | 26 |

10. The commutations were ordered with the hope that as a sufficient example of the Kaikarees by the previous transportation of so many of that tribe was considered to have been made, the convicts would, on the expiration of their now limited periods of imprisonment, be induced, through the Magistrates, to settle down as peaceable cultivators.

Resolutions of Government in the Judicial Department on the Dacoity cases sent up for confirmation, in 1855, by Mr. Bell, Political Agent Southern Muratha Country.

* Cases Nos. I. to VI. committed by Lieutenant Schneider, and Nos. VII. to XV. committed by Captain Hervey.

11. But with respect to the commuted sentences of two of the Mhangs, the award of seven years' imprisonment with hard labour was resolved upon, that at the expiration of that period "they, being Mhangs and not Kaikarees," might be made over to the Magistrate "with a view to precautions for ensuring their future good conduct"; and in the case of the other two men of the same tribe,* the sentence of life transportation awarded them was confirmed, especially "because, as approvers, they would escape all punishment whatsoever; it being open to Government at any future time, upon the recommendation of the General Superintendent, to remit the sentence that has been passed upon them, and which is held in abeyance during their employment as approvers."

Resolutions of the Government of Bombay in the Judicial Department Nos. 4784-85, dated 3rd November 1855.

12. Upon the narratives of those two Mhang approvers being subsequently taken down by me, it was ascertained *that they had committed twenty-four gang robberies, three highway robberies, and seven burglaries,* and that their accomplices numbered 153 *Mhangs* residing in the Ahmednuggur Zilla, against fifty-four of whom there was sufficient evidence to warrant general register numbers being assigned to their names!

Mhang Dacoits of the Nuggur Zilla.

13. Hitherto the information collected in this Office against the Mhang tribe, as professional Dacoits, had been against the Mhang Ramoosee Rukhwaldars, or village watchmen, *of the Sattara country only;* but now the information was extended to the Jaglias or watchmen of the same tribe employed in the Ahmednuggur Zilla.

14. Among the crimes inquired into by me during the year, was one of the murder, during the annual fair at Tokah, in the Newasee Talooka of the Ahmednuggur Zilla, of a Mussulman vendor of piece goods. The Superintendent of Police of Ahmednuggur† strongly suspected three individuals of the Mhang tribe as the culprits, and he asked me to inquire into the case. The suspected parties were transferred to my custody. *Collectively, they admitted the crime;* but while only one of them confessed to it circumstantially, with the complicity of three others, including the other two, the latter denied their own parts in the transaction; yet each charged his companions with it to his certain knowledge!

Murder at Tokah, in the Nuggur Zilla, by Mhangs.

15. The deed was a very foul one. In the first place, the murderers enticed the man away from his booth in the fair, by showing him a gold necklace (in reality gilded brass, in disposing of which as genuine gold I have

* These two men were amongst those left under examination by Lieutenant Schneider.

† Captain Hervey.

in former reports shown the Mhang tribe to be very expert,* as are also the Korwees of the Southern Muratha Country). He was told that if he would, at nightfall, meet them at a certain spot at the bank of the river Gunga, provided with the means for paying for the above and certain other articles, which they pretended to have obtained by robbery, he might make a great bargain. The poor man gave way to the temptation, and repaired to the place indicated; but presently they set upon him, and held him down. He entreated them to spare him; but, with a huge stone, they smashed his head, and after appropriating a handkerchief or roomal, and the money with which he had come provided, the corpse was flung into the river, with the same large stone fastened to it. The body never appeared again.

16. The above men admitted also to me their participation more or less in six gang robberies and three burglaries, some of which were authenticated; but as none of my approvers were acquainted with them, I sent them back with their confessions to the Superintendent of Police of Ahmednuggur, before whom, however, they denied their statements to me; but as that Officer had no doubt of their criminality, he again consulted me about them, and eventually, at my suggestion, he submitted the whole of the documents appertaining to the case to the Commissioner of Police, under whose consideration they now are.

17. The following is a return of dacoity cases for the year 1855, perpetrated in the Districts within the circle of the superintendence of this Agency below the river Nerbudda, namely :—

*Dacoity Cases in* 1855.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| In the Belgaum | Collectorate | 3 |
| Dharwar | do. | 3 |
| Sholapore | do. | 2 |
| Sattara | do. | 4 |
| Poona | do. | 2 |
| Ahmednuggur | do. | 1 |
| Nassick | do. | 2 |
| Tanna | do. | 2 |
| Khandeish | do. | 2 |
| Angria's Colaba | do. | 0 |
| Rutnagherry, | do. | 2 |
| Surat | do. | 1 |
| Southern Muratha States | | 0 |

* Vide tribe No. 24 in Captain Hervey's List of Wandering Tribes, and the confession of Ranoo Mhang, in Vols. I. and II. of the printed Selections from the Records of Government in the Police Branch of the Judicial Department.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| In the Sawunt Waree States | ..... | 0 |
| Kolapore do. | ..... | 0 |
| Akulkote do. | ..... | 2 |
| | Total.... | 26 |

*Dacoity Cases during* 1854.

18. The number of Dacoities committed in the same districts during the year 1854, as stated in my last Annual Report (No. 170, dated 11th September 1855), *amounted to forty-nine.*

19. The *decrease*, therefore, is twenty-three.

Dacoity Cases during 1855 how disposed of.*

20. In the above twenty-six instances of dacoity, nine persons were murdered and thirteen wounded, inclusive of two Dacoits killed and four wounded; the plunder was to the value of Rs. 10,140-5-4; of which to the extent of Rs. 3,399-15-4 was recovered; while in seventeen detected instances 320 persons were arrested on suspicion by the local Magistrates; of whom ninety were punished with various limited terms of imprisonment, not exceeding three years (with the exception of two men, who were transported for life in one of the cases *not* attended with murder); 135 were released; one man died; and ninety-four remained under investigation at the close of the year.*

21. I would beg to observe, that it does not appear *that any Kaikarees were implicated in any of the above instances of dacoity*; that the dacoities in the Sattara and Poona districts were supposed to have been perpetrated by *Mhang Ramoosees;* those in the Ahmednuggur and Nassick districts by *Bheels;* in the Tanna Collectorate by *Thakoors* and *Kolees;* in the Rutnagherry Talookas by *Koonbees;* in the Akulkote and Sholapore districts by *Dhers* and *Villagers;* and in the remaining districts by persons at present unknown.

Burglary in the Dharwar, Belgaum, and Sholapore Districts.

22. With regard to the crime of burglary, it would appear that in the Belgaum and Dharwar Collectorates, in which that crime is believed to be committed oftener by *professional Dacoits* than by other persons, the number of instances of that description of robbery amounted, during 1855, to 312, which is an increase by 54 over the return for the year 1854, in which the instances had amounted to but 258. To the above I may add 168 in 1855, in the Sholapore Collectorate, in which, also, the crime is often committed *by Dacoits;* thus creating a return for 1855 of 480 cases of burglary, attended with the murder of one man and two wounded, in the Sholapore, Belgaum, and Dharwar Collectorates; a proportion of which were without doubt committed *by professional Dacoits,* but to what extent I am unable to

* This is a statement of the proceedings against the suspected parties by the local authorities.—(March 1858.) (Signed) C. HERVEY.

say, for the reasons given in my former reports on this subject, namely, because burglary is a crime so much committed by all classes of robbers.

23. The value of the property reported to have been plundered in the above 480 cases of burglary was Rs. 30,638-6-3, of which to the extent of Rs. 7,964-3-8 was recovered. The persons seized by the local authorities on suspicion numbered 455, in 176 instances; of whom 233 were sentenced to various short periods of imprisonment. Among the seized parties *were seventeen Kaikarees*, of whom four men were registered Dacoits.

'Bhar' Robbers.

24. I stated in paragraph 12 of my Annual Report for 1854 (No. 170, dated 11th September 1855), that, with reference to my inquiry into the habits of 'Bhar' robbers, I would defer making any further report on the subject until the result was known of the trials of the prisoners of that class that had been in my custody.

25. They were transferred to the Office of the Magistrate of Belgaum, by whom the case was entrusted to his Assistant, Mr. C. Shaw, to whose great pains in preparing which for final trial—a labour which, owing to the voluminous documents appertaining to it, and to the intricacies with which it abounded, was not of an ordinary nature—I have much pleasure in adding my testimony to that recorded by the Session Judge who conducted the trials.

26. As those trials have terminated with but indifferent results, owing to the nature of the evidence required for the conviction of such peculiar criminals, it will not be out of place to bring under notice the whole of the proceedings appertaining to the inquiry from the period my attention was first turned to the habits of these people; that it may be taken into consideration whether there is any defect in the laws applicable to such offenders, that prevents their proper punishment; and I therefore venture to submit for the information of Government an extract (paragraphs 21 to 37—see Appendix A) from a General Report lately made by me to the General Superintendent, No. 14, dated 22nd January 1856, in which the whole subject has been reviewed from first to last; and which I trust may be found of sufficient interest to be taken further notice of.

Further late proceedings of Bhar Robbers.

27. For, although the trials alluded to have resulted in the conviction of three members of the gang, inclusive of the very notorious leader of the confederacy (named Essajee Punt), the example of their arrest *would not appear to have deterred their unarrested associates from practising the crime, even while the trials were yet going on;* for another gang of the same class of offenders has recently been under the examination of the Magisterial Authorities of Poona, from whose proceedings it appears, that they had lately successfully practised bhar, by passing off base coin for genuine currency,—a sum of Rs. 3,574 of such spurious money, *coined by themselves* in imitation of the 'Chowkoonee'

or square rupees, was found in their possession. The swindlers had assumed the disguise of Beldars, on their way to Aurungabad in search of employment, and they gave out that they had, while working in a quarry, found a quantity of buried money; and the better to make it appear that what they pretended to allude to had long been in disuse, they covered it with something to give it the black appearance of tarnished silver; they were provided at the same time with a small quantity of genuine money of the same currency, which they freely handed over to their dupes "to be tested." When arrested by the Joint Police Officer at Seroor, they had succeeded in passing off Rs. 3,978 of such base money; and the Foujdar of the city of Poona, in reporting upon the habits of these men to the Superintendent of Police, observed that "it pitied him to hear how often people had been victimised by them"; that they were in the habit of carrying on their swindling transactions "not only in British territories, but in the Nizam's Country, at Indore, Gwalior, and in other States; and under this Presidency in the Poorundhur, Kheir, Bhimthuree, and Hawelee Talookas of the Poona Zilla, as well as at Ahmednuggur, Sholapore, Sattara, and in Bombay itself"; and he has also ventured an opinion that, for the purposes of conviction, "such people should be tried *on a general charge*, and *not* in separate and distinct cases." This, it will be remembered, I had myself advocated.

28. No particular law was found applicable to the above transactions; for it was discovered, owing to the decisions of the Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut in former instances, that the prisoners could not be tried for uttering counterfeit money, *because it was necessary that the money so uttered should be in counterfeit of the coin of the realm*, i. e. *of the Honorable East India Company's currency, which the money these men had passed off was not!* The Magisterial Authorities were therefore obliged to forego every instance in which they had uttered spurious money, and to select but a single case in which the swindle had been effected by passing off *spurious ornaments*, and to send up *but one man* for trial, on, as in the casé of the bhar robbers tried at Dharwar, *a charge of conspiracy*, which, as at Dharwar, *failed in ensuring any satisfactory results*, although, I believe, conviction of that one man followed; *while thirty-two, of whose guilt there was no doubt, were released without trial!* It was recommended that the false rupees should be returned to the liberated parties! To this the Superintendent of Police very properly objected, and the Magistrate finally ordered that the whole should be reduced to metal (tin), and that the duped parties should receive the proceeds of the sale of that portion thereof that had been passed off upon them, and that the remainder should be credited to the public treasury!

29. In connection with my proceedings during the year under report, I may mention, that, as the families of several of the transported members of the Kaikaree gangs had for some time located themselves in the Northern Konkun, in which the tribe used formerly to depredate so much, and as there were several fugitive Dacoits who could not be traced, but were supposed to be employed in the railway works in the Tanna Collectorate, in which, owing to the great demand for labourers, a large concourse of people had congregated from the upper countries in search of employment, I considered it a favourable opportunity, on finding myself relieved of the whole of my prisoners on the close of the trials of the season,—Dacoity, too, having to a great extent been put down in the Southern Muratha Country, and the Dacoits fled,—to remove my establishment into the Tanna Districts, with the view to a close examination of the men assembled along the railroads; a measure that had, moreover, been proposed to me by the local Authorities, and which I had long meditated, but had not any leisure to carry out; for it was believed that there were several criminals among the many persons employed on those works, composed as they were of all castes of people—the comparative frequency of crime in the Tanna Zilla over other Districts favouring the impression; and as I felt that this was a duty that required my personal superintendence, and might not be entrusted to Native agents, whose proceedings might create a distrust in the minds of the men engaged by the Railway Company, to the obstruction, perhaps, of works of such great importance, I moved my Office into the Konkun, the more conveniently to supervise the same.

Report as to the Labourers on the Railway Works in the Northern Konkun.

30. While, during the day, my agents could mix with the crowds of people engaged everywhere, it was at night only, when these masses had resolved themselves into their own distinct tribes and associations, that they could be carefully watched when retired to their separate 'tandas' or encampments; gathered in which they would freely talk of themselves, while giving themselves up to the enjoyment and repose of the hour. At such periods, it has been quite interesting to observe them. Free from cares, forgetful of the labours of the day, glad of their earnings, engaged in unrestrained discourse, in song, or in mirth; no revelry anywhere, nor any clamour, except occasionally, when the accidental conflagration of their temporary huts bestirred the particular colony that belonged to them, these primitive people present an instructive lesson of the contentment to be attained where labour shuts out want, and leads men of such roving dispositions, and even plundering habits, to rejoice in the blessings of an honest and abundant livelihood; and it is a subject for congratulation that, considering the low price of labour in the upper country, the prospect of continual employment in the many great works in the

course of construction, whether at Vehar or on the railways, is likely to lead so many of the poorer classes of people located in our districts to flock to them in quest of it. For it affords me satisfaction to be able to report, as far as my personal observation enables me, that, as a body, the men now on those works would seem to be sufficiently remunerated to feel themselves restrained from having recourse to any lawless pursuits, *if at the same time* the Police of the districts shall, by its vigilance and general intelligence, offer no room for the facilities and opportunities for wrong-doing it may be hard for such people to withstand; for I may observe that, when lately travelling in Upper India, through districts in which similar works were in progress, I did not perceive, I thought, the same disposition to be contented, if I might judge from the refusal to assist me when very late one night I found myself at, I believe, a *Sonthal village* in the Rajmahal hilly district, and was very anxious to push on to Raneegunge in time for the forenoon train to Calcutta; for although I had offered double, and then even four times the amount of the ordinary rate of hire, if they would, any number of them, help me on, they sullenly declined, because, as they declared, they were always disappointed of their wages! but as this was very shortly antecedent to the outbreak of the Sonthal insurrection, perhaps this supposed discontentment was peculiar to that tribe only, as my progress was too hurried for me to observe whether the same feeling extended to the workmen lower down.*

31. I am, in the above remarks, regarding these people *as a body*; for I have no doubt there are many individuals among them who would not demur in taking advantage of any opportunity for committing crime, which, perhaps, some of them find ways for doing; for although we have met with and apprehended but a single registered Dacoit among them, it would appear that, in the Tanna Zilla, there are, according to the Commissioner of Police, more deaths from alleged accidents, more pretended suicides, and more people found dead from causes unassigned, than in any five other Zillas put together; which, as not constituting acts of plunder, but perhaps *murder*, cannot, I think, under the circumstances I have above entered into, be laid to the charge of the several wandering tribes congregated in the Northern Konkun.

State of Crime in the Tanna Zilla.

32. Believing that some clue to a circumstance so seemingly mysterious might be elicited, while my own Agents were deputed to gain local information on the subject, from an inspection of the inquest reports of the Zilla, I requested the Magistrate of Tanna to be furnished with all the documents of that nature for the

Inquest Reports examined.

* At that time (March 1855), the railway from Calcutta extended only as far as Raneegunge, a distance of 126 miles from Calcutta, and had but recently been opened.—(March 1858.)

(Signed) C. Hervey.

last four months; from an examination whereof, it appeared that inquests had during that period been held upon 119 dead bodies, of which, according to the report of the juries, 19 were of infants procured by abortion; 39 of persons who had fallen into wells, creeks, or rivers, and were drowned, including 2 who were drowned in a fit while bathing; 5 of persons who had been killed by wild beasts, or died from snake-bites; 8 of persons who, under the sufferings of sickness, had destroyed themselves; 1 of a woman who had been murdered by her husband; 7 of persons who had committed suicide,* among whom was the murderer just alluded to; 17 of persons who had lost their lives from falling from trees, bridges, and other high places, including one man who was killed by falling from a cart; 2 of men who had died while in a state of intoxication; 2 of persons who had died, as at first stated, from causes unknown, but afterwards ascertained to have died natural deaths; and 19 of travellers, some of whom were declared, upon an inspection merely of the bodies, and in the absence of the evidence of relatives or acquaintances, to have met with their deaths from poverty, starvation, or want of care during illness.

33. Perhaps the cases included under the last category may be regarded as the most serious and melancholy. The friendless and homeless must always, particularly in India, be the keenest sufferers in sickness or sorrow, and the easiest victims of murderers; but whether such persons meet with their deaths *at the hands of poisoners*, or really die from the causes above assigned, I have not been able to gather from the documents I have examined, or from the inquiries of my Agents. If the juries, on such occasions, were carefully convened only of intelligent persons, and promptly, *and are not packed*, it would be hard to believe that they should be unable to come to an opinion when murder has been committed and when not, and which it may be supposed they would be careful to declare; but as, nevertheless, in the absence of medical advice, it can often happen, and did happen on one occasion in the Ahmednuggur Zilla, that the man who has died from the effects of poison should be declared to have died from natural causes, I am unable at present to say whether or not any of the above deaths were from the effects of deleterious drugs administered for

* The deceased in one of these cases was a woman, who, by the jury, was declared to have drowned herself in a well on account of disagreements with her husband. The Superintendent of Police rather thought that she had been thrown into the well by him; and that Officer had similar doubts in three other cases, viz. one touching the death of a new-born infant, another that of a Bhungee who was found dead in the shallow part of the river under the walls of the fort of Tanna, with a deep wound in his side, and a bloody razor close by on the rocks; and the third of a young wife, who in sulks used constantly to be leaving her husband's house, and was at length found drowned in a river; but still, I believe, without any conclusive grounds for such suspicions.

the purposes of robbery; but as it is now notorious that that crime exists to some degree throughout the districts of this Presidency, *from which death not unfrequently ensues*, I will now proceed to that subject.

'Datura Thuggee' considered.

34. Having, in the General Report I have before adverted to,* ventured to advocate once more the expediency of making Act XXIX. of 1850† a general one, with the view to the better suppression of the crime of robbery by means of drugs (datura thuggee), and as my observations on the subject may be referred to Government, it is proper that I should submit to notice in the present report the extent of that crime within the districts of this Presidency during the year under review.

35. The *reported* instances thereof during 1855 present the following return, viz:—

*Number of reported Cases of Datura Thuggee in the Bombay Presidency during the Year* 1855.

In the Belgaum Districts, four cases, attended by the deaths of two persons.
In the Dharwar Districts, three cases, unattended with any death.
In the Sholapore Districts, three cases, attended with one death.
In the Sattara Districts, one case, without death.
In the Poona Districts, three cases, without death.
In the Ahmednuggur Districts, three cases, without death.
In the Nassick Districts, six cases, attended by the deaths of four persons.
In the Khandeish Districts, two cases, unattended with any death.
In the Tanna Districts, four cases, without death.
In the Angria's Colaba Districts, four cases, without death.
In the Rutnagherry Districts, nil.
In the Surat Districts, two cases, attended by the deaths of two persons.
In the Ahmedabad Districts, nil.
In the Broach Districts, nil.
In the Kaira Districts, nil.
In the Southern Muratha States, nil.
In the Sawunt Waree Districts, one case, unattended with any death.
In the Sholapore Districts, two cases, without death.
In the Akulkote Districts, two cases, without death.
Making a total of forty cases, attended with the murder of nine persons.

36. The property stated to have been robbed on the above occasions amounted to Rs. 550-12-0, of which to the value of Rs. 177-2-6 was reco-

* To the General Superintendent, No. 14, dated 22nd January 1856.

† Act XXIX. of 1850 is an Act "to amend Act XXXI. of 1838, for the Prevention of Poisoning" (Clauses III. and IV.); but its scope is confined to the local jurisdictions of the Supreme Courts at the Presidencies of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay.—(March 1858.)

(Signed) C. Hervey.

vered. Fifty persons were seized on suspicion, of whom ten were slightly punished in six of the instances *in which death had not ensued*, viz:—

| | |
|---|---|
| By Magistrates, by imprisonment for one year ..... | 4 |
| By Session Judges, two men to two years' and one man to four years' imprisonment with hard labour ..... | 3 |
| By Native Chiefs, imprisonment with hard labour, one man for six months and two men for seven years ..... | 3 |
| Total.... | 10 |

In the cases attended with the deaths of the drugged parties, *no culprit was punished.*

37. If the above, in support of what I have before elsewhere humbly advocated, can be considered as any further proof of the inadequacy of the law under which the crime is punishable in the Mofussil, the extract quoted in the margin, from the Crime Report of the Senior Magistrate of Police of the island of Bombay, may, in the opinion of Government, also show, that far from anything undue in the measure I have from time to time submitted for consideration, the special Act itself (XXIX. of 1850), the operation whereof I have said might with advantage be made general for all India, barely meets —indeed it does *not meet*—the crime, even within the jurisdiction to which its provisions are specially limited. The wisdom of the declaration of Government on a former report from me on this subject, namely that this heinous crime "could be repressed only by the severe punishment of those *convicted* of practising it," is unquestionable; but it remains to be determined *how* they may be convicted?

*Mr.* A. K. CORFIELD, *Senior Magistrate of Police, to* H. L. ANDERSON, *Esq., Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, No. 299, dated 1st May* 1854.

Para. 14. There were eight cases of administering poison with intent to commit murder, on account of which eleven persons were taken into custody by the Police, being an increase last year of three offences and three persons arrested. *This is a crime in which it is most difficult to obtain evidence against the accused. Of the eleven persons apprehended, but one was committed for trial* before the Supreme Court, and even that case was dismissed for *want of evidence.* The practice of administering datura, in order to rob the victims while in a state of stupefaction, I believe exists to some extent all over India. It prevailed very considerably on the island about the years 1833 and 1839; but I am happy to be able to report that no serious case of the kind has of late years occurred.

38. Being about to proceed to Europe on a furlough, I may,—with reference to the former very great extent to which dacoity prevailed under this Presidency (namely *three hundred and thirty-four cases in* 1847) at the period that my duties were extended to the suppression of that crime, to its gradual decrease year by year *from that period*, and to its present condition as returned in paragraph 17 of this report, namely *twenty-six cases during* 1855; also to the observation on the part of the Honorable the Court of Directors in para-

The proceedings generally of this Agency in the suppression of Dacoity.

graph 21 of their despatch to the Bombay Government, No. 11, dated 5th September 1855, in reply to my Annual Report for the year 1854, namely "that the total discontinuance of the crime would be one of the most valuable boons in the power of Government to confer upon the community"; moreover, to the fact that the people by whom the crime used to be so much perpetrated in the districts of this Presidency, and against whom my operations have been principally directed, *now seldom commit dacoity*,—respectfully, in this final Report of my operations, submit to the notice of the Government under which I have for twelve years been specially employed in charge of this Agency, the result of my proceedings, particularly against the Kaikaree tribe, who so notoriously infested the districts of the Bombay Presidency.

39. The following is a return of my operations accordingly, viz :—

| | Men. |
|---|---|
| Seized by this Agency | 312 |
| Received from jails and from the local Authorities on requisitions from this Office | 297 |
| Grand total | 609 |
| Released, because, although Dacoits, the evidence for their conviction, according to departmental process, was insufficient | 111 |
| Made approvers* | 9 |
| Deceased before committal | 5 |
| Sent to Jubbulpore for disposal | 7 |
| Sent to local Officers for precautionary measures | 60 |
| Sent to the Assistant General Superintendent at Indore, for committal to the Court of the Resident † | 20 |
| Sentenced by me as Magistrate | 21 |
| Total | 233 |
| Balance | 376 |

* Namely,—

| | |
|---|---|
| Convicts received from jails | 6 |
| Sent to Jubbulpore for admission | 1 |
| Escaped after admission | 1 |
| Recanted, and therefore remanded | 1 |
| Total | 9 |

† Disposed of as follows, viz :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Transportation for life | 10 |
| Limited imprisonment with hard labour | 9 |
| Died before trial | 1 |
| Total | 20 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Committed for trial and sentenced, viz :— | |
| Transportation for life, inclusive of forty-three approvers | 301 |
| Imprisonment with hard labour for fourteen years | 2 |
| Imprisonment for twelve years | 2 |
| Ditto for ten years | 3 |
| Ditto for seven years, including one approver | 24 |
| Ditto for six years | 4 |
| Ditto for five years | 3 |
| Ditto for three years | 2 |
| Ditto for two years | 1 |
| Acquitted | 16 |
| Deceased before trial | 2 |
| Released on furnishing security, as ordered by Government, after conviction and sentence to life transportation | 2 |
| Returned to this Department after conviction and sentence to life transportation, for admission to the grade of approvers | 12 |
| Total.... | 374 |
| Remaining under investigation on the 31st December 1855 | 2 |

40. From the evidence of the approvers, as recorded in their several narratives, it would appear that the number of dacoities the above had committed with them amounted to 1,151, *of which* 1,048 *took place within the limits of the Bombay Presidency*. Of these, a total number of 703 have been authenticated on references to the local Authorities, in which the property plundered by the dacoits was to the extent of Rs. 5,46,659-2-10, whereof to the value of Rs. 17,209-8-7 only was recovered, while detection seldom followed, notwithstanding the proclamation of rewards on almost every occasion varying from Rs. 50 to Rs. 500.

41. As the narratives of the approvers contain many interesting details of their exploits, I beg to annex to this Report a statement (Appendix B) of the approvers upon whose evidence the above operations were conducted, exhibiting their sentences, and the number of dacoities each has confessed to; also a return (Appendix C) of sixty-six selected instances of the dacoities they have recorded; and lastly, remarks (Appendix D) as to each dacoity, to which I solicit the attention of Government, presenting, as these details do, how daring and adventurous have been the people from whom the community had so long suffered.

42. As any relaxation in the efforts for the total suppression of the crime of dacoity would be attended with evil consequences in territories so overrun by wandering tribes, all more or less predatory, as are the Districts composing

this Presidency, I beg to submit to notice that there are several classes of persons infesting them who are professional Dacoits, whose habits have yet to be inquired into, and who should be narrowly watched. Also that, as detailed below, there are 1,277 persons still at large, with whom approvers have, as recorded in their narratives, committed dacoity, viz:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Kolhatees | 46 |
| Kaikarees and Korwees | 824 |
| Wuddurs | 7 |
| Lumbanees | 12 |
| Mhangs | 312 |
| Ramoosees | 58 |
| Juts or Mooltanees | 18 |
| Total.... | 1,277* |

Of the above, 496 are registered Dacoits, against whom there is sufficient evidence for conviction; and the rest, or 781, are such as have not committed the crime with *two or more* approvers, as is necessary before they can be proceeded against; but who are nevertheless *Dacoits*, and will be registered according as additional information is elicited against each from the evidence of *future* approvers. I may not, in conclusion, presume to offer in this Report anything in contravention of the opinion expressed by Government when reviewing the cases lately sent up for confirmation by the Political Agent Southern Muratha Country, namely, "that to have been born and bred robbers was more their misfortune than their fault," for every respect is due to such a sentiment; but as the duty of this Department peculiarly is to regard such persons in the shape in which they present themselves to view,—namely as dangerous people, of confirmed evil habits,—I trust that anything I may have submitted in the General Report I have already had occasion to advert to, on the subject of the commutations that have recently been ordered of the punishments awarded by the Political Agent Southern Muratha Country, in some of those cases, may, when brought to the notice of Government, be regarded as opinions consistent with every sentiment of respect, in the discharge of an onerous and very important duty.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. Hervey, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

*Assistant General Superintendent's Office,*
*Coorla, 1st April* 1856.

* There are not as yet any Wuddur, Lumbanee, or Jut approvers with Captain Hervey. The above are the men of those tribes who have occasionally joined Kaikaree approvers in dacoity; but they have gangs of their own, and commit dacoity and highway robbery on their own account. (Signed) C. Hervey.

# APPENDIX A.

*EXTRACT Paragraphs* 21 *to* 37 *from a GENERAL REPORT from CAPTAIN HERVEY, Assistant General Superintendent, to the General Superintendent of the Thuggee and Dacoity Department, with reference to the Crime of ROBBERY by BHAR, No.* 14, *dated* 22*nd January* 1856.

21. I come now to the crime of swindling by 'Bhar,' which had up to very lately remained unexposed. "Constantly committed over a broad expanse of country, it had (as reported by Mr. Inverarity, Political Agent Southern Muratha Country, to the Secretary to Government, No. 191, dated 1st August 1854) hitherto escaped detection."

Robbery by 'Bhar.'

22. In the documents accompanying my Report to the Bombay Government No. 64, dated 2nd May 1854, this crime was described to be committed in the following manner:—

Bhar robbery; its nature, and how committed.

"These men had other associates, and Essajee Punt, aforesaid, was the chief man among them in the above business called 'bhar'; the other abovenamed persons were also leading men. Essajee Punt asked me why should I go to Bombay? 'Come and join us, and do as we do, and it will be to your advantage,'—for we had begun to be intimate with each other. Upon this, I asked him to say what he meant. He told me that one of their occupations was that of bhar, which was, he explained, for four or so people to associate together, and one of them, with the assumed appearance of being some important personage, to be given out to be a relative of the Shreemunt Peshwa (Bajeerao), his name so and so. This settled, a copper vessel was procured, and rubbed over with butter-milk and tamarind, in order to get it covered with verdigris, and then it was filled up with earth and stones. One or two ornaments, or some rupees, or such like, were next placed on the top of all, and the mouth of the vessel closed. It was then to be buried somewhere in the jungles, in a hole dug for the purpose. Two or so men of the gang were then made to appear to be sepoys, and one or two to be horsemen, who were instructed that, when the above vessel should be exhumed and brought away, they were to pretend to be the sepoys of Government, and to pounce upon them all at some certain

The confession to Captain Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent, of Appa Chowan, Bhar Robber, quondam Village Schoolmaster.

preconcerted spot, and then only to consent to release all, on a promise of being paid a certain sum of money for doing so. Matters thus arranged, the next step was for the gang to repair to some town or city, where the disguised great personage and pretended horsemen and peons were kept in the back-ground, while the rest, after finding out what rich Sowkar or other person there might be in the place who was covetous of wealth, would, under some pretence or another, strike up an acquaintance with him, and get to be on visiting terms with him. After allowing some convenient time to pass by, it would next be imparted to the said Sowkar, that a quantity of property was known to have been buried in the time of the Shreemunt Peshwa at a certain spot; and that in their company was a person who was formerly either the Peshwa's Dewan, or one of those in His Highness' confidence; and that he used in those days to be a man of consequence, but now was in poor circumstances; and that as it was not likely that any one would be ready to take anything valuable from him but under suspicion of the same having been stolen, and would rather have him taken into custody, would he, the said Sowkar, through being a great man, consent to receive charge of the above buried wealth?—or, if he liked, they would show it to him, and he might dispose of it as he thought proper, and keep half the proceeds for himself, letting them have but only the other half! Decoyed by such temptations, the man is induced to accompany the men at night to the spot where the vessel has been previously buried; which is then dug out, and opened, and the dupe requested to behold, that it is full of wealth!—eager to possess which, he gets beside himself, and requests that all should go back with it at once, or that it be given into the charge of some one of those he may have brought with him. The whole then proceed in a body forthwith with the booty. On the way, the party is intercepted by the pretended sepoys, already told off to that part of the business as above. They request to be told what it is they are carrying away, and arrest their further progress, desiring that it should be shown to them. On this, the cheats whisper to the duped party,—'We are stopped; if we be taken into custody, we shall lose the whole of the property; we must endeavour to prevent this.' The victim assents to this, and he is then advised that nothing short of Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 1,500 would be sufficient to effect their release, or that otherwise the property would be seized, and his own chances of profit *too* be lost. In his eagerness not to lose so much wealth, he is suffered to go home to produce the amount agreed to, and which he does, either in money, or by its equivalent in such ornaments or other valuables as he may have at hand. Upon this, the vessel is taken to his house, and he carefully puts it away under ground.* What has been thus obtained from him in the transaction is then

* In the mean time the gang disperse, and only meet again at some distant preconcerted place.

(Signed) C. Hervey.

shared among the members of the gang, the chief man of the party getting half of the whole, and the other half being divided among the others, one share of it being kept for *durbar expenses* (*i. e.* to meet disbursements in case of any of their number being seized, with which to procure securities, or to bribe Karkoons, or such like). Such was the plan of proceedings in bhar imparted to me by Essajee Punt."

23. Having joined a gang of these swindlers, the following was the above deponent's first essay at the crime in obtaining by bhar from Gopalla Malee a sum of Co.'s Rs. 300:—

Robbery by Bhar of one Gopalla, at Poona.

* * * "This was about ten or ten and a half years ago, in the dark half of the month of Margsheersh.* Our head man was Essajee Punt, and he was entitled to half of the whole booty obtained by us. At his bidding, I went associated with four men, of whom I was constituted the Karbaree, or agent. We prepared a copper vessel according to our method, by rubbing it over with tamarind and curds, to give it a green appearance. It was filled with earth, and at the mouth of it certain real articles were placed, as a gold 'thoossee' (necklace), four gold 'gôtes' (bracelets), two gold 'pātlees' (bracelets), a pair of silver chain anklets, and other things. The mouth was then closed, by a plate of copper being soldered over it. Of the party, two, named Suntoo Zingar, and Babajee *alias* the man I have above called Ramchunder Bapoojee Toolpoollé, went and buried it at a spot in the waste by Purbuttee, near the edge of a tank. It happened that I was previously acquainted with the above Malee, so that I went to him and imparted to him that a vessel full of valuables, belonging to the Shreemunt, was to be found buried in the Purbuttee common, and that one Gunpuntrao Denglé, formerly one of the companions of the Peshwa, knew of the spot; saying which, I introduced him to our associate Babajee. The man assenting to go with us for the purpose of getting possession of the property, accompanied us accordingly by night to the spot indicated. The copper vessel was dug out, and, being opened, the articles placed at the top of it were shown to him. The vessel being placed on his head, we prepared to start with it. It was not, however, necessary on this occasion to have him stopped, according to our usual custom, by pretended sepoys, for he had beforehand agreed to give us Rs. 300 for the whole; so that, *after contriving to extract from the vessel the articles we had placed at the mouth of it*, we placed it on his shoulder, and proceeded straightway to his house, *where we helped him to bury it in his 'deogurh' or chapel.*† On the following

* November—December.

† Where one of the gang was left *to see fair play*—lest the Malee's curiosity might mean time lead him secretly to examine the contents of the buried vessel.—(March 1858.)

(Signed) C. Hervey.

day we repaired to his house, and received from him a sum of Rs. 300, by way of part payment. This money we took to our chief, Essajee Punt. He appropriated half of the amount, and retaining a share out of the other half for 'durbar expenses,' the rest was divided between the members of the gang, my share amounting to Rs. 40 in Company's and Chandoree currency."

24. I reported on this subject, in the despatch above quoted,* paragraph 19, that "I knew not that the duped parties were to be pitied, their own very reprehensible part in such transactions proving them to be themselves knaves of a lower order only, in cunning and duplicity, than the men by whom they had been so egregiously victimised"; and the Bombay Government observed, in reply, that these disclosures exhibited "a painful view of the moral constitution of the people who have been duped under the system of *bhar*, which, Captain Hervey justly remarks, is a masterly plan of consummate roguery, difficult to be met by any existing laws."—(Resolution of the Bombay Government, No. 1066, dated 6th March 1855.)

The Robbed as culpable as the Robbers.

Observation of the Bombay Government on the crime of Robbery by Bhar.

25. It happened, subsequent to the date of my Report, that several members of a gang of these wrong-doers, including the leader Essajee Punt himself, came into my custody in June 1854, shortly before I proceeded on duty to the Punjaub. It had committed numerous cases of bhar, and but recently one at Mhopsa,† in the Goa Territory, that had created no small stir, and was attended with the robbery of a large amount of gold dollars and other Continental money, from two influential and affluent Native bankers named Rugoonath Sett and Ramsett, conducting business under the name of the "Kullup Sowkars."

Arrest of a Gang of Bhar Robbers.

A Bhar Robbery at Mhopsa, in the Goa Territory.

26. It had been committed in the following manner,— I quote from the revelations on the subject made to me by one of the gang:—

"After this, Raojee Brahmin held some communication with the Bunya Rugoonath, of Mhopsa, as to a 'ghurra.'‡ The Bunya assented, and desired that the owner of it should be brought to him. He, Raojee, thereupon at eventide took me to him; but as he, the Bunya,

How the Mhopsa Robbery was effected.

Confessions of Seodial to Captain Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent, 24th, 26th, and 27th June 1854.

* To Government, No. 64, dated 2nd May 1854. † On the 6th February 1854.

‡ A copper or earthen vessel.

could not understand my language,* Raojee interpreted to him, and explained that I was acquainted with the place where the property was concealed; that it belonged to the Peshwa Bajeerao, and was buried, to the value of about twenty or twenty-five lakhs of rupees, in the *Ramghat* mountain, and that the owner of it on the part of the Peshwa had lately come down from *Bhittoor;* adding, that if he (Rugoonath) would consent to pay over to me a sum of Rs. 50,000 in ready money, he would point out and produce the whole of the property, half of which he (Rugoonath) should keep, and the other half be appropriated by the above owner.

" The Sowkar (Rugoonath) here desired that the owner should be brought to him; whereupon Raojee on the following day went to Arowlee,† for the purpose of summoning Gunputrao, Purrusram, and Babajee; and on the third day he returned, bringing with him Gunputrao and Balia Muratha. I was at the 'dhurumsala,'‡ so that at night I accompanied Gunputrao and Raojee, and went to Rugoonath Shet Bunya, who took us to another Sowkar, a greater person than himself. They and the Brahmins (Gunputrao and Raojee) then held some conversation together. The Sowkar said that if he were to see the property he would consent to pay Rs. 50,000. Gunputrao desired him to pay over to him Rs. 50,000 either in venetians ('pootlees') or in notes, 'or how am I to carry away Rs. 50,000 with me?' He consented, saying, 'Let it be as you wish; I do not make any excuse;—only show me the property.' On hearing this, I, Raojee, Balia Muratha, and Gunputrao, with Purrusram, and Rama his servant, whom we afterwards met by the way, went to *Bhaitsee*, accompanied by Rugoonath (the Bunya), and his servant Rowloo. We took them to the mountains, and we dug a hole there, from which, by a blind, we contrived to produce a vessel having its mouth closed up. Gunputrao then took out from the vessel a piece of gold in weight two tolas, which he placed in the hands of the Bunya, who thereupon became pleased, and desired us all to return with him to his house, when he would show us Rs. 50,000 either in notes or venetians, and that we were then to bring the vessel to him, and take away the notes or venetians. This having been agreed to, Rugoonath (the Bunya) returned to Mhopsa, as did Gunputrao, Purrusram, Raojee, &c. Arrived at Mhopsa, Rugoonath began to say that he was unable to produce Rs. 50,000, but only the equivalent of Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 4,000 in gold ornaments and venetians. Upon this, Gunputrao sent a message to Babajee at Arowlee,

* Scodial was a Hindoostanee Rajpoot, and he pretended to have been deputed from Benares, by the Peshwa's representative, alluding to the since notorious Nana Saheb.—(March 1858).

(Signed) C. HERVEY.

† Close to Vingorla, a seaport town to the southward of Bombay.

‡ Or Caravanserai.

to say, *that if what he was about there was greater, the business here* (at Mhopsa) *would be postponed.** He also sent for me from Bhaitsee.

"Babajee returned an answer by Atmaram *that his business required much delay, so that he (Gunputrao) should conclude his for whatever might be obtainable thereby.* Hereupon Gunputrao desired Rugoonath (the Bunya) to place what venetians and ornaments he intended to be given to me, tied up in a bundle, in a box, and to hand the key thereof over to him; to keep the box in his own house, but that a man on his (Gunputrao's) side would remain there to watch it, and that whenever he (Gunputrao) brought the vessel containing the property to him, he was to hand over the venetians and ornaments to me.

"The Bunya, crediting all this, tied up the venetians and ornaments in a bundle, which he handed over to Gunputrao, and desired him to place it with his own hands in the box, and to lock it up himself; *whereupon, by a cheat, he substituted a false bundle in the place of the other one, which he took, and then loched up the box.* Raojee Brahmin was then placed by him as a pretence to look after the box, secretly desiring him to stay there two days, and then to make off for Poona. Gunputrao then handed over the genuine bundle, containing the venetians and ornaments, to Purrusram, whom he desired to go off with it to *Nepanee,* and to put up in the dhurumsala there, as that he would follow him there. It was Purrusram who was first made to decamp; the rest of the gang, who were located, in furtherance of the transaction, at different places in the neighbourhood, had been told to escape a day previously.

"After this, I, Gunputrao, and Balia, went with Rugoonath and his servant Rowloo, for the sake of handing over the ghurra (the buried vessel) to them.

"But as our people had already taken away that ghurra, we gulled the Bunya that there was another; and, with the view of pointing it out to him, we took him to the *Ramghat.* We put up at the temple there that is by the shops, where Rugoonath began to cook his food. I was desired by Gunputrao to go on to a certain spot *on the road to Belgaum,* and remain there. I went accordingly. After this, Gunputrao and Balia went under the pretence that they would go to search for the spot where the property was supposed to be placed; so they left him and joined me, and then I, Gunputrao, and Balia, made off, and in two days reached Nepanee, where we found Purrusram with the bundle containing the property, the whole of which was probably to the value of Rs. 6,000."

* Babajee was, with some others of the same gang, here similarly engaged in plotting the plunder of a man named Gabriel, at Vingorla, who is now the Bread and Meat Contractor to the Commissariat Department.—(March 1858.) (Signed) C. HERVEY.

27. Owing to the deficiency of the law (Regulation XVII. of A. D. 1827 of the Bombay Code) in meeting this crime, when considered in its *organised condition*, I endeavoured that the case should be tried by a *special tribunal;* for, simultaneous with the above robbery, other similar acts had been committed elsewhere by other members of the gang during the same expedition, upon which the whole had set out in conjunction. A correspondence ensued. The Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut were averse, however, to the case being tried out of their Courts. Viewing only the robbery at Mhopsa, *unconnected with any other*, they declared that "the case was one of *simple robbery*, and that the robbers, being neither Thugs nor Dacoits, they were subject to the Court's jurisdiction, and must be tried by the ordinary tribunals" (Registrar Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut to Captain Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent, No. 2050, dated 23rd August 1854); and I was requested by them to make over the case to the Magistrate of Belgaum, "who would try it under Act I. of 1849."*

Endeavour to have the Bhar Robbers tried by a special tribunal.

Objections on the part of the Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut.

28. Upon this, I reported to Government, through the Political Agent Southern Muratha Country, "that although the robbery effected at Goa might, when regarded *by itself*, be considered a *simple robbery*, I would beg to bring to notice that the gang, by a portion of which that act was perpetrated, *numbered twenty-two men.* The whole at that time set out in small parties, in communication with each other, on one of their periodical expeditions, *intent on practising robbery by bhar*"; that in the course of the inquiry several other similar robberies had been elicited against the same gang, "*proving the men composing it to be professional and systematic robbers*"; that the chief person of the gang had declared to me, "that he had been thus systematically employed in his lawless pursuits, in different parts of the country, *for the last thirty-six years*" (he and some of his associates had occasionally even been tried by the Supreme Court of Judicature at Bombay), and "that the present might be perhaps a fair opportunity for checking the further progress in crime of such lawless persons." (Captain Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent, to J. D. Inverarity, Esq., Political Agent Southern Muratha Country, No. 122, dated 26th August 1854.)

Captain Hervey's reasons for remonstrating against the trial of the Bhar Robbers by an ordinary Court of Justice.

29. This report was sent on to Government by the Political Agent Southern Muratha Country, Mr. J. D. Inverarity, who viewed the crime in the same light as myself, with the following remarks.

Captain Hervey's views advocated by the Political Agent Southern Muratha Country.

* An Act to provide more effectually for the punishment of offences committed in Foreign States.

"3. It is for Government to decide whether a robbery of property, stated to amount to Rs. 7,500, committed by twenty-two persons, banded together for plunder, the chief of whom has admitted to Captain Hervey that for thirty-six years he has been thus systematically employed, can be denominated a simple robbery. If systematic and professional robbery is dacoity, then is the present a case of dacoity, accomplished, not by violence, but by deception and address.

The Political Agent Southern Muratha Country to Mr. Secretary Anderson, No. 213, dated 28th August 1854, paragraphs 3 and 4.

"4. The translations of intercepted letters submitted by Captain Hervey show the strenuous endeavours which have been made from the beginning to thwart inquiry into the present case by the Dacoity Department, and I beg to record my opinion that but for the tact and experience which Captain Hervey has brought to bear upon the present case, the crime of bhar, as systematically practised by an extensive confederacy, would not have been thoroughly exposed."

30. In reply to this, Government observed that "it considered it advisable to withdraw as few cases as possible from the cognisance of the regular Courts, and that, therefore, it preferred that this case should be prepared by the Magisterial Authority, and be committed to the Sessions Court." "Being, however, at the same time, fully alive to the great assistance which may be derived from the Thuggee and Dacoity Department, His Lordship in Council directs that the Assistant General Superintendent conduct the prosecution in this case." (Mr. Secretary Anderson to the Political Agent Southern Muratha Country, No. 4278, dated 3rd October 1854.)

The Government of Bombay direct a *via media*.

31. The case was thereupon, on my departure, in October 1854, for the Punjaub, to officiate as Superintendent for Major (now Lieutenant Colonel) Graham at Sealkote, handed over to the local Magistrate, by whose Acting First Assistant, Mr. C. Shaw, it was committed to the Dharwar Sessions, on a *charge of conspiracy*, each selected instance of the crime being sent up *as a separate case*, under Regulation XVII. of A. D. 1827 of the Bombay Code.

The case of the Bhar Robbers tried on a charge of Conspiracy.

32. Eleven of the gang were tried accordingly, in such instances of robbery by bhar, viz :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Tried | 10 |
| Admitted as Queen's evidence | 3 |
| Deceased before trial | 1 |
| At large | 8 |
| Total | 22 |

33. The prisoners in seven of these instances were acquitted, *including for the robbery at Mhopsa, in the Goa Territory;* and but three prisoners (including, however, the great leader of the gang, Essajee Punt) were convicted,—one man in each of the three remaining instances,—and sentenced, viz. one man (Essajee Punt) to four years' imprisonment with hard labour, and a fine of Rs. 2,000, or, in default, to suffer further imprisonment for two years; another (Succaram Bhut) to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, and a fine of Rs. 500, in default whereof to suffer further imprisonment for two years. The sentence of the third man (Purrusram Gopinath) was, I believe, somewhat similar, but is unknown to me.*

Inadequate results of the Trial.

34. It may be observed that, of the above three persons, *two*, named Essajee Punt and Purrusram Gopinath, had already before been similarly incarcerated for similar acts of crime, both by the Supreme Court of Judicature at Bombay, and by the Session Judge of Poona. Of the acquitted parties, too, four men had also before been imprisoned for the same crime. Thus six men out of the eleven that came into my custody, as above, *had previously been punished;* exemplifying how inadequate, under the operation of the existing laws, the award in such cases has been, as it must also be in the present instance, *for the repression of a people of such confirmed evil habits.*

Former Punishments have not deterred Bhar Robbers.

35. These culprits were alluded to in paragraph 12 of my Report to the Bombay Government, No. 170, dated 11th September 1855, as follows:—

"12. The bhar robbers before mentioned were, at the request of the Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut, and with the concurrence of Government, handed over to the Magistrate of Belgaum for committal to a Sessions Court, and it would be premature to offer any report regarding them until the result of their trials is known, except in this place merely to state that in *twenty-two authenticated instances of swindling, out of thirty-four in which the robberies were successful* (they having failed in sixteen other attempts), as elicited against them in my own proceedings, the property illegally acquired by them, by their impositions, *amounted in value to the extent of Rs.* 59,578, of which Rs. 14,410 were in notes of the Bank of Bombay."†

36. On the conclusion of their trials, the Session Judge of Dharwar was pleased to declare that "he could not allow the result to be made known, without recording his opinion that Captain Hervey deserved the greatest

Remarks of the Trying Authority, on the part this Agency took in exposing the crime of Robbery by Bhar.

* It has been communicated since this Report was closed; and is the same as awarded to the man Essajee Punt.

† This was an error; the bank notes robbed having amounted to about Rs. 25,000, of which Rs. 14,410 were traced. (Signed) C. HERVEY.

credit for his exertions in bringing these cases to light, and in tracing them in the manner he has done; and that it was to be hoped that the publicity thus thrown on the operations of these gangs would put a stop to their depredations for the future, or, at any rate, put people on their guard, and encourage them to come forward at once with their evidence in case any attempts of the kind should be made." (Extract from the proceedings of A. Jones, Esq., Session Judge of the Zilla of Dharwar, in the bhar conspiracy cases, dated 19th December 1855.)

37. I have entered thus fully into the above system of crime, with a hope that it may be more prominently noticed elsewhere, and considered whether the deeds of such practised robbers should not, as advocated also by the Political Agent, Southern Muratha Country, in his report quoted under paragraph 29, be met by some more stringent laws than the Regulation under which only it would seem that they can readily be tried; and whether they might not even be recognised under the provisions of Act XI. of 1848,* according to which more weight might be attached to the *evidence of accomplices, than which, in such confederacies, there is seldom any better to be obtained.* Aware, as these cautious swindlers are, what in our courts of law would under ordinary circumstances be sufficient for their conviction,—for the greatest drawback to any general combination for their suppression is the extreme reluctance with which the duped parties come forward with their evidence against the delinquents,—it was with the greatest difficulty that I could persuade the Raja of Akulkote to admit that he had been successfully practised upon by them; and in the instance of a man at Alibagh,† who was swindled by these adepts at crime of a quantity of notes of the Bank of Bombay, to the value of about Rs. 25,000, the entry of Rs. 14,410 whereof I had even traced to the ledger of a Sowkar of the city of Poona, to whom they had been disposed of by one of the gang, *I could not in any manner succeed in gaining the attendance of the plundered party.* He sent various excuses. At length, he proceeded to Bombay, out of my Magisterial jurisdiction. Summoned through the Chief Magistrate of the Island, he feigned sickness, and got himself admitted as a patient in the Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Hospital, from which he put forth a sick certificate, and so altogether evaded giving his evidence.

A Special Law advocated for the suppression of Robbery by Bhar.

The reluctance of persons plundered by Bhar to give evidence against the Robbers.

(True extract)

(Signed) C. Hervey, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

* An Act for the punishment of wandering gangs of thieves and robbers.

† Both of these cases were tried, as above, in the Dharwar Sessions, *and the prisoners in both were acquitted.*

# APPEN

*STATEMENT of DACOIT APPROVERS, admitted by Captain* C. *commencement of his Operations against Professional Dacoits in* 1847; *exhibiting Gangs they belonged.*

| Number. | General No. | Name. | Caste. | Age. | Village. | Committing Officer. | To what Court Committed. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3265 | Grassia Jemedar. | Sansiah Bhat. | 60 | No fixed residence. | Captain C. Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent. | The Sessions Court of Dharwar. |
| 2 | 2254 | Kokatee ..... | Ditto .. | 40 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 3 | None. | Kunkia Naik .. | Ditto .. | 40 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 4 | None. | Ulfin ..... | Ditto .. | 35 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 5 | None. | Bhow ..... | Ditto .. | 70 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 6 | None. | Himtya ..... | Ditto .. | 65 | Ditto .. | The Magistrate of Poona. | The Sessions Court of Poona. |

# DIX B.

HERVEY, *Assistant General Superintendent for the Bombay Territories, from the their several Sentences, the Number of Dacoities they have committed, and to what*

| Date of Sentence. | How disposed of. | Number of Dacoities committed by each. Total | Belonging to what Gang. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| In 1849, date unknown. | Transportation for life beyond seas. | 60 | Had his own gang. | Deceased of cholera, while on command duty in the Ahmednuggur Districts. The dacoity at Gokak, in the Southern Muratha Country, was the last of his series of crimes. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 45 | Grassia's. | Transferred to another Agency. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 45 | Had his own gang. | Ditto ditto. He was the leader of the dacoities at Bagulkote and Gudduk, in the Southern Muratha Country. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 12 | Kunkia's. | Transferred to another Agency. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 60 | Ditto .. | This man was not committed for trial by Captain Hervey, but was sent up to Jubbulpore for the purpose. He pointed out the spot where a quantity of the Bagulkote and other plunder had been buried. He was a veteran Dacoit, and had committed dacoity throughout every part of India, and often in the Southern Muratha Country, in Sir Thos. Munro's Camp. He had once formerly been in the custody of the Department somewhere in Upper India; but as he had become very ill, and the party in charge of him would not be burdened by him, they left him at a village, they thought, in a dying state. He slowly recovered, and, finding himself out of custody, he left that part of the country, and again came down to the Southern Muratha Country, in which, in Kunkia's gang, he took part in the dacoities at Almilla and Bagulkote. He was finally seized, with some others of the tribe, in the Shorapoor Bedur province. He has been transferred to another Agency. |
| Unknown.... | Five years' imprisonment with hard labour. | 65 | Tumbolin's. | Deceased; he was the Karbaree of the woman Tumbolin's gang. For the seizure of Tumbolin a reward of Rs. 1,000 was offered, but she was never taken, and is still supposed to be living somewhere in the Oude Terraie. |

| Number. | General No. | Name. | Caste. | Age. | Village. | Committing Officer. | To what Court Committed. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | None. | Risaldar ..... | Sansiah Bhat. | 25 | No fixed residence. | Captain C. Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent. | The Sessions Court of Dharwar. |
| 8 | None. | Mussoo Naik .. | Ran Kaikaree. | 35 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 9 | None. | Mushya ..... | Ditto .. | 25 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 10 | None. | Sutwa ..... | Ditto .. | 30 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 11 | None. | Jukkya..... | Ditto .. | 30 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 12 | None. | Bablia ..... | Ditto .. | 22 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 13 | None. | Pacqueera .... | Ditto .. | 25 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 14 | None. | Wenkia ..... | Ditto .. | 30 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 15 | None. | Sonea ..... | Ditto .. | 28 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | The Commissioner's Court of Sattara. |
| 16 | 4771 | Bappoo Naik .. | Ditto .. | 55 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 17 | 4792 | Dadya ..... | Ditto .. | 30 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 18 | 4897 | Sunnia ..... | Ditto .. | 50 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 19 | 4776 | Bheema ..... | Ditto .. | 27 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |

| Date of Sentence. | How disposed of. | Total Number of Dacoities committed by each. | Belonging to what Gang. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unknown.... | Acquitted.. | 8 | Kunkia's. | This man was admitted as a probationary approver, and was sent on command to Khandeish, to seize a notorious Dacoit of the Kolhatee tribe, but he caused the arrest of the wrong man, and was sent up for trial by Captain Hervey, with the view to a capital conviction being passed upon him ; but he was acquitted by the Session Judge of Dharwar, from the custody of whose peons he effected his escape on his way to Belgaum, where he would have been again tried upon fresh charges. He proceeded at once to Jubbulpore, and there surrendered himself to the General Superintendent, by whom eventually he was admitted as an approver. |
| 1st July 1850 | Transportation for life beyond seas. | 94 | Poona .. | This man is now at Nagpore. He lately murdered his wife, and is likely to be hanged.* |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 68 | Ditto .. | Transferred to another Agency. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 47 | Poona & Nuggur. | Ditto ditto. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 61 | Poona & Moghullai. | Ditto ditto. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 23 | Poona .. | Ditto ditto. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 30 | Ditto .. | Ditto ditto. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 47 | Poona & Nuggur. | Ditto ditto. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 26 | Ditto.. | Ditto ditto. |
| 30th July 1851 | Ditto .. | 96 | Sattara & Rutnagherry. | Ditto ditto. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 53 | Sholapore | Ditto ditto. |
| 31st July 1851 | Ditto .. | 94 | Poona .. | This man is now at Jubbulpore. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 20 | Khandeish & Konkun. | Ditto ditto. |

* He has been transported for life.—(March 1858.)—C. H.

| Number. | General No. | Name. | Caste. | Age. | Village. | Committing Officer. | To what Court Committed. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | 4850 | Kurroo Naik .. | Ran Kaikaree.. | 65 | No fixed residence. | Captain C. Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent. | The Commissioner's Court of Sattara. |
| 21 | 4896 | Sooryà Naik .. | Ditto .. | 35 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 22 | 4773 | Bendya..... | Ditto .. | 28 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Sessions Court of Dharwar. |
| 23 | 4884 | Possia ..... | Ditto .. | 18 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 24 | 4936 | Yellia Kongaria.. | Ditto .. | 45 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 25 | 4784 | Bheemshya .... | Ditto .. | 35 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 26 | 4863 | Moria ..... | Ditto .. | 50 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 27 | None. | Sutwa 3rd .... | Ditto .. | 20 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 28 | None. | Mullaree ..... | Ditto .. | 22 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 29 | 4900 | Sutwa 2nd .... | Kulkorwee .. | 30 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 30 | None. | Nagia Naik .... | Ditto .. | 50 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 31 | None. | Burria Naik.... | Ditto .. | 55 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 32 | None. | Sunjwa Naik .. | Ditto .. | 55 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 33 | 5743 | Ramgirree Tooljia Naik. | Ditto .. | 40 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 34 | 5747 | Kullolia Naik .. | Ditto .. | 25 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 35 | 5738 | Kurree Sahibya.. | Ditto .. | 40 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |

* This approver escaped from custody in November 1855, and then committed several robberies, and the deal of trouble.—C. H.

| Date of Sentence. | How disposed of. | Total Number of Dacoities committed by each. | Belonging to what Gang. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st July 1851 | Transportation for life beyond seas. | 114 | Sattara.. | This man is now at Nugpore. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 52 | Ditto .. | Is with Captain Hervey. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 44 | Poona .. | Transferred to another Agency. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 15 | Poona & Konkun. | Is with Captain Hervey. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 68 | Sholapore | ["Kongaria" for his quarrelsome disposition. Transferred to another Agency, He was nick-named |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 85 | Ditto .. | Is with Captain Hervey. |
| 12th Nov. 1851 | Ditto .. | 69 | Poona... | Ditto ditto. |
| 26th Dec. 1851 | Ditto .. | 10 | Ditto .. | Transferred to another Agency. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 10 | Ditto .. | Ditto ditto. |
| 22nd June 1852 | Ditto .. | Unknown. | Ditto .. | Ditto. He is somewhat mad, and was a very bold Dacoit. His narrative was not taken. He once rushed into the full Court of the Session Judge at Poona, mounted on a poney, to the dismay of the crowd of Karkoons, &c. |
| 10th Feb. 1853 | Ditto .. | 11 | Dharwar. | Is with Captain Hervey; he has committed also several burglaries. His parents were Mhrathas, but he became a Korwee, and a noted leader of Dacoits. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 17 | Ditto .. | Escaped; he has committed besides innumerable burglaries, according to his own account as "numberless as the hairs of his head." He was in the habit, from the age of sixteen or seventeen up to arrest in 1852, of committing five or six burglaries during the dark half of every month.* |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 18 | Ditto & Bellary. | Deceased; was also a burglar. He was a very cunning man, and had but one eye. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 8 | Dharwar.. | Is with Captain Hervey; his burglaries also are numerous. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 12 | Ditto .. | Transferred to another Agency; also a great burglar. |
| 17th February 1853. | Ditto .. | 22 | Ditto .. | Is with Captain Hervey; this man also a burglar. He was nick-named "Kurree" for being very *black*. |

murder of a fellow Dacoit. He was recently (January 1858) again captured by some of my people, after a

| Number. | General No. | Name. | Caste. | Age. | Village. | Committing Officer. | To what Court Committed. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 36 | 5760 | Gidboolla..... | Kulkorwee .. | 55 | No fixed residence. | Captain C. Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent. | The Sessions Court of Dharwar. |
| 37 | 5736 | Nursia..... | Ditto .. | 38 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 38 | 5744 | Hooglia ..... | Ditto .. | 33 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 39 | 5748 | Dod Sahibya Naik | Ditto .. | 75 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 40 | None. | Runga Naik.... | Ditto .. | 40 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 41 | None. | Mudgia ..... | Ditto .. | 50 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 42 | 4976 | Gid Bhowanee.. | Ran Kaikaree. | 38 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 43 | 5664 | Ekankee Kulloria | Kaikaree .. | 22 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 44 | None | Kurta Sutwa.... | Ditto .. | 28 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 45 | 5709 | Bher Tookya .. | Ditto .. | 28 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 46 | 5737 | Dolmookh Yella. | Kulkorwee .. | 50 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 47 | 5764 | Purwa ..... | Ditto .. | 30 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | The Political Criminal Court of Belgaum. |
| 48 | None. | Galkut Bhowanee | Kaikaree .. | 38 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | ,, Ditto .. |
| 49 | 4225 | Shorapooree Kullolia Naik. | Ditto .. | 40 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |

| Date of Sentence. | How disposed of. | Total Number of Dacoities committed by each. | Belonging to what Gang. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10th Feb. 1853 | Transportation for life beyond seas. | 5 | Dharwar.. | Transferred to another Agency; is also a burglar. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 8 | Dharwar & Bellary. | Is with Captain Hervey; he has committed also several burglaries, and was associated with Wuddur Dacoits. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 7 | Ditto .. | Transferred to another Agency; is also a burglar. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 12 | Badamee. | Ditto. This man is a very aged Dacoit, who long had his colony on the Badamee frontier. He used often, he says, to be consulted by the District Authorities when any crime took place, and which generally was the deed of his own men. He has been a great burglar also. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 7 | Ditto .. | Transferred to another Agency; is also a burglar. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 8 | Ditto .. | Ditto ditto ditto. |
| 26th January 1853. | Ditto .. | 33 | Sholapore Poona, & Konkun &c. | Is with Captain Hervey. This Dacoit is a very little man, and was ubiquitous. He changed from one gang to another, never joining any, unless the leader would consent to give him *a half share more than to an ordinary member*, for he was a very intelligent Dacoit. His evidence is consequently most useful, from his having been engaged under so many different leaders. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 7 | Sholapore & Moghullai. | Transferred to another Agency; was also a burglar. He was called Ekankee for having but one eye.* |
| 27th Jan. 1853. | Ditto .. | 12 | Sholapore | Is with Captain Hervey; has also committed some [burglaries. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 15 | Ditto .. | Transferred to another Agency; was also a burglar. |
| 17th February 1853. | Ditto .. | 20 | Badamee & Dharwar. | Are with Captain Hervey. They were burglars, and belonged to Dod Sahibya's colony near Badamee. "Dohmookh" was so nick-named for his having a long face. |
| 27th June 1853. | Ditto .. | 17 | Ditto .. | |
| 31st August 1853. | Ditto .. | 75 | Sholapore & Moghullai. | Transferred to another Agency. He is called *Galkut*, from having a deep slash across his cheek, received in dacoity; was also a burglar. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 21 | Ditto .. | Transferred to another Agency; he was also a noted burglar. |

* This man has lately been transported for incest.—(March 1858.)—C. H.

| Number. | General No. | Names. | Caste. | Age. | Village. | Committing Officer. | To what Court Committed. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | None. | Anyaba ..... | Mhang Rukh-waldar. | 40 | Bondree, Sattara. | Captain C. Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent. | The Political Criminal Court of Belgaum. |
| 51 | .. | Ranoo ..... | Ditto .. | 32 | Mandwee, Sattara. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 52 | 4894 | Sollah Sutwa .. | Ran Kaikaree. | 36 | No fixed residence. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 53 | 4814 | Hunmunta Naik. | Ditto .. | 50 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 54 | 4873 | Oongta Jemadar. | Ditto .. | 75 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 55 | 4877 | Yessoo Naik .. | Ditto .. | 39 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 56 | None. | Malgeemunnee Bheema. | Kulkorwee .. | 40 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 57 | 5766 | Pochkia ..... | Ditto .. | 35 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 58 | 5684 | Totug Nursia .. | Kaikaree .. | 38 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 59 | 5767 | Chunnia Naik .. | Kulkorwee .. | 40 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 60 | 5768 | Sunnia Naik .. | Ditto .. | 30 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 61 | None. | Yersoonka Naik. | Mhang . .. | 30 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 62 | None. | Audoo Naik .. | Mhang .. | 55 | Soorlee, Sattara. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |

| Date of Sentence. | How disposed of. | Total Number of Dacoities committed by each. | Belonging to what Gang. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17th February 1854. | Transportation for life beyond seas. | 19 | Sattara.. | Is with Captain Hervey; he was a village watchman. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 31 | Ditto .. | Transferred to another Agency; also a village watchman. |
| 28th February 1854. | Ditto .. | 82 | Khandeish & Poona. | Transferred to Indore; he has occasionally committed dacoity in the gangs of Kolhatee and Bhat Dacoits. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 62 | Poona & Konkun. | Is with Captain Hervey. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 133 | Ditto .. | Is with Captain Hervey; he is an aged Dacoit, and the Northern Konkun used to be his peculiar "*preserve*," in which he committed the most of his dacoities. |
| 18th February 1854. | Ditto .. | 105 | Ditto .. | Is with Captain Hervey; this Dacoit is a perfect Apollo. |
| 4th May 1854 | Ditto .. | 10 | Badamee and Moghullai. | After being sent up to undergo the usual trial, this man recanted; but he was convicted, and sentenced to life transportation, which Government commuted to imprisonment with hard labour for five years, which he is now undergoing. He belonged to the Badamee colony, and was a very bold burglar, and in great repute among the tribe. |
| 13th July 1854 | Ditto .. | 13 | Canara.. | Is with Captain Hervey; was also a burglar. |
| 29th August 1854. | Ditto .. | 42 | Sholapore and Moghullai. | Transferred to another Agency; was also a burglar. |
| 22nd September 1854. | Ditto .. | 28 | Bellary & Dharwar. | Ditto. He was both Dacoit and burglar. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 29 | Ditto .. | Is with Captain Hervey; he is a son of the old approver Dod Sahibya, and was also a burglar. |
| 29th ditto .. | Ditto .. | 14 | Bellary, Badamee & Canara. | Is with Capain Hervey; he was sentenced to life transportation, but Government commuted the sentence to seven years' imprisonment with hard labour. He has committed dacoity in the Bellary and Dharwar districts, and also under the old approver Dod Sahibya; he has committed several burglaries. |
| 17th January 1855. | Ditto .. | 16 | Sattara. | Is with Captain Hervey; he was a village watchman, or Jaglia. |

| Number. | General No. | Names. | Caste. | Age. | Village. | Committing Officer. | To what Court Committed. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 63 | None. | Andia ..... | Mhang .. | 30 | Telungsee, Nuggur. | Captain C. Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent. | The Political Criminal Court of Belgaum. |
| 64 | None. | Namia ..... | Ran Kaikaree. | 35 | Digolee, Nuggur. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 65 | None. | Raojee ..... | Ditto .. | 30 | No fixed residence. | The Magistrate of Surat. | The Sessions Court of Surat. |
| 66 | None. | Dhasa ..... | Ditto .. | 50 | Ditto .. | The Commissioner of Sattara. | The Commissioner's Court of Sattara. |
| 67 | 4876 | Pochkia Naik .. | Ditto .. | 40 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 68 | 4917 | Timma..... | Ditto .. | 30 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 69 | None. | Bheema ..... | Kaikaree .... | 28 | Ditto .. | The Magistrate of Sholapore. | The Sessions Court of Sholapore. |
| 70 | None. | Purrakurmee Naik. | Ditto .. | 45 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |
| 71 | 5687 | Nad Tookya Naik. | Ditto .. | 48 | Ditto .. | Ditto .... | Ditto .. |

| Date of Sentence. | How disposed of. | Total Number of Dacoities committed by each. | Belonging to what Gang. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21st September 1855. | Transportation for life beyond seas. | 12 | Nuggur & Moghullai. | Is with Captain Hervey; he was a Jaglia in the Ahmednuggur Zilla, and used also sometimes to commit burglary. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 23 | Ditto .. | Deceased; he was also a village Jaglia, and a burglar. |
| Unknown | Seven years' imprisonment with hard labour. | 18 | Konkun & Poona. | Is at Jubbulpore. He was the first Kaikaree Dacoit who became an approver. He was seized while taking part in a dacoity at Bulsar (Surat), in the old man Oongta Naik's gang, and was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, which had not expired when he was transferred to Jubbulpore. |
| Ditto .. | Three years' imprisonment with hard labour. | 36 | Moghullai, Khandeish, and Sattara. | Transferred to another Agency. He also was seized in the act of a dacoity, in the Sattara State, in which he was severely wounded and hacked. He was transferred to Jubbulpore before the expiration of his sentence. Dhasa had also committed some burglaries. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | Unknown. | Poona .. | This man escaped before trial. He did not wish to be called upon to give evidence against his brother, who was among the prisoners at that time in custody. He is supposed to be now a Peon somewhere. |
| Ditto .. | Ditto .. | 63 | Ditto .. | Transferred to another Agency. After conviction and sentence to life transportation, he was by the Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut released, but on again coming into the custody of the Department, he confessed, and was admitted as an approver. He was sent up for final trial to Jubbulpore. |
| Ditto .. | Five years' imprisonment with hard labour. | 27 | Sholapore | Transferred to another Agency. He and his brother had been released by Captain Hervey for want of evidence; but they soon after took part in a dacoity in the Sholapore Zilla, in which *his brother was killed, and he wounded and arrested. Before* his release, *he had committed as many as twenty-six dacoities,* which was not known at the time, as there were no approvers who had done anything with him. |
| Ditto .. | Transportation for life beyond seas. | 23 | Sholapore & Moghullai. | Transferred to Hyderabad. He was a celebrated Naik, and was already under sentence of life transportation when he was transferred to Captain Hervey. He has often robbed in the Cantonments at Sholapore. Purrakurmee was also a very successful house-breaker. |
| Ditto .. | Five years' imprisonment with hard labour. | 39 | Ditto .. | Is with Captain Hervey. He is a notorious leader, and resided for a long period at the village Nad, in the Indee Talooka of the Sholapore Zilla. When transferred to this Agency, he was already under a sentence of imprisonment with hard labour for five years, for a burglary at Salotgee, in which one |

| Number. | General No. | Names. | Caste. | Age. | Village. | Committing Officer. | To what Court Committed. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 72 | 5681 | Jamgar Toolja Naik. | Kaikaree .. | 65 | No fixed residence. | The Magistrate of Sholapore. | The Sessions Court of Sholapore. |

*Assistant General Superintendent's Office,*
*Coorla, 1st April* 1856.

| Date of Sentence. | How disposed of. | Total Number of Dacoities committed by each. | Belonging to what Gang. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | of his sons was killed. His final trial will take place upon the expiration of the above sentence. Nad Pookya used also, occasionally, to commit burglaries. |
| Unknown .. | Seven years' imprisonment with hard labour. | 31 | Sholapore | Transferred to another Agency. When sent to this Department, he was already under a sentence of imprisonment with hard labour for seven years, on account of a burglary at Sindagee, the period of which has not yet expired. He was a celebrated character among Dacoits, and was once in custody at Dharwar, in the time of Mr. Babey, for a dacoity at Gungawuttee, but was acquitted. This man was a very expert burglar. |

(Signed) C. HERVEY, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

# APPEN

*STATEMENT of SIXTY-SIX out of One Thousand and Forty-eight*
*PRESIDENCY by the Poona, Konkun,*

| Number. | Date. | Where Committed. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Village. | Talooka. | Zilla. |
| 1 | 13th August 1834 .... | Gohagur ..... | Anjunwell .... | Rutnagherry.... |
| 2 | 6th December 1845 .. | Kaseegaum ..... | Kurar ..... | Sattara ..... |
| 3 | 27th November 1845 .. | Kurdeh ..... | Punderpoor.... | Sattara ..... |
| 4 | 13th September 1847 .. | Sirgaum ..... | Waee ..... | Sattara ..... |
| 5 | 13th May 1847 ..... | Bulsar ..... | Bulsar ..... | Surat..... |
| 6 | 22nd April 1847..... | Nursingpoor ..... | Kurar ..... | Sattara ..... |
| 7 | 30th November 1848 .. | Nursingpoor ..... | Indapoor..... | Poona ..... |
| 8 | 1841..... | Bhewndy..... | Bhewndy..... | Tanna ..... |
| 9 | 18th April 1844 ..... | Dhoolia ..... | Dhoolia ..... | Dhoolia..... |
| 10 | 9th July 1848 ..... | Ghorebunder ..... | Shastee..... | Tanna ..... |
| 11 | 10th March 1848..... | Saeegaum..... | Waee ..... | Sattara ..... |
| 12 | 14th November 1847 .. | Chinchnee ..... | Uthnee..... | Belgaum ..... |
| 13 | 1st October 1848 .... | Uthnee..... | Uthnee..... | Belgaum ..... |
| 14 | 10th August 1848 .... | Patkolee ..... | Mohole ..... | Sholapore .... |
| 15 | 2nd May 1846 ..... | Chinchnee Tarapoor. | Suzzan..... | Tanna ..... |
| 16 | 4th January 1846.... | At the Sungum at Poona. | Huwelee ..... | Poona ..... |

# DIX C.

*DACOITIES committed in the Territories under the BOMBAY Sholapore, Badamee, Dharwar, and Hindoostan Gangs.*

| On whose House. | Strength of the Gang. | Killed. | Wounded. | Amount of Property taken. | | | Amount recovered. | | | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Rs. | a. | p. | Rs. | a. | p. | |
| Bappoo Rugoonath Oké. | 11 | .. | .. | 14,545 | 12 | 0 | ..... | | | |
| Dhondoo Suddasew Koolkurnee. | 15 | .. | .. | 1,998 | 6 | 0 | 250 | 0 | 0 | |
| Eswunt Wittul Koolkurnee. | 13 | .. | .. | 4,462 | 0 | 0 | ..... | | | |
| Balcrist Purshotum Koolkurnee. | 21 | .. | .. | 4,000 | 0 | 0 | ..... | | | |
| Abbaram Jogee, and Nundram Muccundass. | 24 | .. | .. | 6,152 | 12 | 0 | 101 | 13 | 4 | |
| Abba Maharaj, and Anna Maharaj. | 17 | .. | 1 | ..... | | | ..... | | | The dacoity was an unsuccessful one. |
| Dajee Annunt Dhigre. | 15 | 1 | .. | 139 | 8 | 0 | ..... | | | The killed party was a Dacoit. |
| Ram Bhow Buchajee. | 16 | .. | .. | 2,519 | 4 | 0 | ..... | | | |
| Bulwuntrao Konair, Sheristedar of the Magistrate's Office. | 18 | .. | 1 | 2,963 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 1 | |
| Dhond Josee bin Bal Josee. | 11 | .. | .. | 1,385 | 8 | 0 | ..... | | | |
| Venayek Suddasew Apté. | 22 | .. | .. | 4,725 | 8 | 0 | ..... | | | |
| Jugonnath Junardhun Indoleekur. | 15 | .. | .. | 5,423 | 14 | 0 | ..... | | | |
| Dadajee Chowndo Tuggaree. | 16 | .. | .. | 874 | 5 | 9 | ..... | | | *Some villagers were sentenced for this robbery.* |
| Dada Bhut bin Appa Bhut Josee, and Atmaram Krishna. | 14 | .. | 1 | 900 | 6 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | |
| Munnohur Nuthoosett Sahookar. | 17 | .. | .. | 7,807 | 0 | 0 | ..... | | | |
| Upon the Bungalow of the late Capt. Hart. | 13 | .. | .. | 250 | 0 | 0 | ..... | | | |

| Number. | Date. | Where Committed. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Village. | Talooka. | Zilla. |
| 17 | Date unknown; about fifteen years ago. | Dapooree, near Poona. | Huwelee ..... | Poona ..... |
| 18 | 20th June 1846 ..... | Bandora ..... | Shastee ..... | Tanna ..... |
| 19 | 3rd March 1846..... | Oorun or Caranjah.. | Caranjah ..... | Tanna ..... |
| 20 | 2nd January 1849 .. | Mahableshwur..... | Jowlee..... | Sattara ..... |
| 21 | 12th May 1837 ..... | Senale, near Nirmul.. | Bassein ..... | Tanna ..... |
| 22 | 9th December 1847 .. | Kulledhone ..... | Khanapoor .... | Sattara ..... |
| 23 | 20th September 1844 .. | Jeo ..... | Shastee ..... | Tanna ..... |
| 24 | 30th June or 1st July 1848. | Shelgee ..... | Sholapore..... | Sholapore ..... |
| 25 | In June or July 1841 .. | Malsirrus..... | Poorundhur.... | Poona ..... |
| 26 | 8th March 1848..... | Mungloor ..... | Akulkote..... | Sholapore ..... |
| 27 | 28th September 1846 . | Lalsingee..... | Indee ..... | Sholapore ..... |
| 28 | 3rd November 1850 .. | Singnapoor ..... | Indee ..... | Sholapore ..... |
| 29 | 29th June 1840 ..... | Chand Kowta ..... | Hypurga ..... | Sholapore ..... |
| 30 | 29th or 30th June 1839. | Boodehall, near Kamunkerree. | Mungolee..... | Sholapore ..... |

| On whose House. | Strength of the Gang. | Killed. | Wounded. | Amount of Property taken. | Amount recovered. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | |
| Hureechund Purboo.. | 23 | .. | .. | Unknown. | Unknown. | Unknown,. because the plundered party has left the village. The residence of the Governor of Bombay is at Dapooree. |
| Antone, son of Manoel Souza. | 13 | .. | .. | 160 0 0 | ..... | Bandora Hill, close to Bombay. |
| Hurreepansett Sonar. | 12 | .. | .. | 3,550 4 0 | ..... | The island of Caranjah, in the Bombay Harbour. |
| Seetaram Prubhakur Despandeh. | 18 | .. | .. | 395 8 0 | 30 0 0 | There were two dacoities on the Mahableshwur Hills, besides others at Nagotna, Mhar, Poladpoor, and Parr, &c. on the road to them from Bombay. |
| Rungo Pandoorung Gosaee, and Nurbhiram Wullubram. | 8 | .. | .. | 409 0 0 | ..... | |
| Puncho bin Mahadoo Wanee. | 16 | .. | .. | 2,397 4 6 | 2,192 4 6 | The gang was seized, and one of them, who was severely mauled on the occasion, since became an approver; his name is Dhasa. |
| Pandoorung Huree.. | 13 | .. | .. | 307 0 0 | ..... | |
| Seolingappa bin Burrappa. | 14 | 2 | 4 | 98 6 0 | ..... | The residence of the Criminal Judge of the Civil and Military Station of Sholapore is close to Shelgee. |
| Ramchunder Bappoojee, Bhyrao Myhiput, and Succaram Hurree Bowsee. | 17 | .. | .. | Unknown. | Unknown. | The plundered parties have left the village. |
| Eruppa bin Mullappa Kostee. | 19 | .. | 2 | 159 8 0 | ..... | |
| Khund Bhut bin Jeewun Bhut Josee. | 19 | 2 | 2 | 107 0 0 | ..... | |
| Mortuppa bin Satuppa Patel. | 12 | 1 | 2 | 56 8 0 | 0 3 1 | |
| Upon the house of Chumbussawa woman. | 30 | 1 | 1 | 1,024 2 0 | ..... | The dacoity was especially undertaken for the murder of the woman, which was effected. |
| Kurree Bussappa wulud Mahadeo Appa Jungum. | 29 | 1 | 1 | 100 0 0 | ..... | |

| Number. | Date. | Where Committed. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Village. | Talooka. | Zilla. |
| 31 | 30th December 1837 .. | Beejapoor ..... | Beejapoor .... | Sattara ..... |
| 32 | Date unknown, about twenty years ago. | Allullee ..... | Hypurga ..... | Sholapore .... |
| 33 | 22nd April 1841..... | Sirshyal ..... | Indee ..... | Sholapore .... |
| 34 | 11th July 1847 ..... | Chincholee ..... | Akulkote..... | Sholapore ..... |
| 35 | 31st October 1853 .... | Chickhullee..... | Akulkote..... | Sholapore ..... |
| 36 | 23rd March 1854 .... | Munnoor..... | Mungolee..... | Sholapore ..... |
| 37 | In 1845 or 1846..... | Luchan ..... | Sanglee ..... | Belgaum ..... |
| 38 | Date unknown; year 1840. | Bumnullee ..... | Indee ..... | Sholapore ..... |
| 39 | 28th February 1851 .. | Opin-Butgirree .... | Dharwar ..... | Dharwar ..... |
| 40 | 23rd October 1849.... | Kullowlee ..... | Beeree..... | Belgaum ..... |
| 41 | 2nd September 1848 .. | Yemkunmurdee .... | Chikoree ..... | Belgaum ..... |
| 42 | Date unknown; year 1846. | Moolgoond 3rd .... | Dumbul ..... | Dharwar ..... |
| 43 | 20th October 1846.... | New Hooblee ..... | Hooblee ..... | Dharwar ..... |
| 44 | 18th September 1846.. | Addurkuttee, near Muzlapoor. | Sanglee ..... | Belgaum ..... |
| 45 | 2nd September 1853 .. | Ergoontee ..... | Roydroog..... | Bellary ..... |

| On whose House. | Strength of the Gang. | Killed. | Wounded. | Amount of Property taken. | Amount recovered. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | |
| Wirroo Paxapa wulud Seolingappa, and Sunkurappa wulud Rachappa Bungar. | 18 | .. | .. | 380 2 0 | ..... | |
| Nagappa wulud Saibya Hujjam. | 13 | .. | .. | Unknown. | Unknown. | The plundered party is dead. |
| Krishnajee Mahadeo, and Balcrist Wassoodeo, Revenue Survey Karkoons. | 11 | .. | .. | 238 10 0 | 5 0 0 | The dacoity was undertaken at the instance of the Patel of Sirshyal, who wanted certain papers in the possession of the Revenue Survey Karkoons, and which he succeeded in getting accordingly. |
| Suddasew Dhurmajee, Koolkurnee. | 17 | .. | 3 | 193 4 0 | ..... | |
| Dhondee bin Dajee, Durzee. | 12 | 1 | 2 | 424 8 6 | ..... | |
| Mullappa wulud Mulkappa Joolaee. | 13 | 1 | .. | 35 14 9 | ..... | |
| Upon the threshing-floor of Mulkappa Punchum Lingayut, &c. | 14 | 1 | 1 | 10 0 0 | ..... | This was perpetrated by moonlight, as all dacoities in the open country, upon fields & threshing-floors, invariably are. |
| Roodrappa Jeer Ankuljee. | 15 | .. | .. | Unknown. | Unknown. | The plundered party is dead. |
| Upon the shops of Adrisappa bin Mullappa Hoolee, and Rewappa bin Goorsidappa Wanee. | 31 | .. | .. | 12,387 0 0 | ..... | This was the deed of Kulkorwees of the Dharwar Zilla, joined by some of the Village Police, and the Kotwal of Dharwar was also in some way implicated in it. |
| Bheemrao Ramchunder, Karkoon. | 29 | .. | .. | 730 1 6 | 8 12 0 | |
| Sidrama bin Rewappa Tëlee. | 16 | .. | .. | 227 14 5 | ..... | For this and the preceding dacoity at Kullowlee, *some villagers were punished.* |
| Mullekar Joonappa bin Humpya Busreemurd. | 42 | .. | 1 | ..... | ..... | Unsuccessful. There were three dacoities at Moolgoond, the deed of the same robbers. |
| Fukeerappa Munseekaee. | 65 | .. | .. | 2,526 0 0 | ..... | The house was a very strong one, and the owner a person of great substance, and therefore the gang was a large one. |
| Goorrow Timmajee, Koolkurnee. | 56 | 1 | 2 | 400 0 0 | ..... | |
| Bheemappa Komtee. | 35 | .. | 3 | 806 11 0 | ..... | |

| Number. | Date. | Where Committed. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Village. | Talooka. | Zilla. |
| 46 | 14th March 1844 .... | Moolgoond 1st..... | Dumbul ..... | Dharwar ..... |
| 47 | 12th December 1844 .. | Gooledgood..... | Badamee ..... | Belgaum ..... |
| 48 | 22nd February 1830 .. | Welneshwur ..... | Anjunwell .... | Rutnagherry.... |
| 49 | In 1830 ..... | Rhymutpoor ..... | Kooreygaum .. | Sattara ..... |
| 50 | 24th February 1832 .. | Cantonment of Sholapore. | Sholapore..... | Sholapore ..... |
| 51 | 11th February 1836 .. | Barsee ..... | Barsee ..... | Sholapore ..... |
| 52 | 18th April 1841 ..... | Barsee ..... | Barsee ..... | Sholapore ..... |
| 53 | 26th November 1842 .. | Poona ..... | Huwelee ..... | Poona ..... |
| 54 | 26th June 1845 ..... | Almilla..... | Hypurga ..... | Sholapore ..... |
| 55 | 30th June 1845 ..... | Sholapore ..... | Sholapore .... | Sholapore ..... |
| 56 | 22nd February 1846 .. | Gokak ..... | Gokak ..... | Belgaum ..... |
| 57 | 21st April 1835 ..... | Meeruj..... | Meeruj..... | Belgaum ..... |
| 58 | 22nd February 1831 .. | Dhoolia ..... | Dhoolia ..... | Khandeish..... |
| 59 | Date unknown; about twenty-three years ago. | Nundgur..... | Beeree ..... | Belgaum ..... |
| 60 | Date unknown; about thirty-two years ago. | Nepanee ..... | Chikoree ..... | Belgaum ..... |
| 61 | Date unknown; about thirty-one years ago. | Dhoonsee..... | Hooblee ..... | Dharwar ..... |
| 62 | 27th November 1845 .. | Bagulkote ..... | Bagulkote .... | Belgaum ..... |
| 63 | 13th April 1847 ..... | Gudduk ..... | Gudduk ..... | Dharwar ..... |

| On whose House. | Strength of the Gang. | Killed. | Wounded. | Amount of Property taken. | Amount recovered. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | |
| Meerappa bin Kurribussappa Yelwuttee. | 20 | .. | .. | Unknown. | Unknown. | The plundered party is not now at the village. |
| Seolingappa bin Ningappa, and Chunnunna bin Sidappa. | 31 | .. | .. | 493 9 0 | ..... | |
| Govind Ragho Bullal Gokulleh. | 23 | .. | .. | 1,173 9 0 | ..... | The gang consisted of Mhang Rukhawaldars of the Sattara country. |
| Kassee Ramchunder Salpootee, and Bappoo Ramjee Jain. | 75 | 2 | 20 to 30 | 3,000 0 0 | ..... | |
| Upon the Treasury of the Military Paymaster. | 16 | 1 | 2 | ..... | ..... | No booty. This and the succeeding robberies up to No. 63 were committed by Bhat or Sansiah Dacoits from Hindoostan. |
| Kooshaldass Goozur.. | 32 | 4 | 3 | 5,455 4 4 | ..... | |
| Bhuggoo Korea bin Appajee Korea. | 24 | 6 | 4 | 5,541 0 0 | ..... | |
| Kheta Moolchund, Marwaree. | 28 | .. | .. | 5,000 0 0 | ..... | Two of the Dacoits were seized, but one, on pretending to be a villager, was released, and the other was sentenced to five years'. He became an approver (Himtya). |
| Lingowa kom Siddappa. | 8 | 1 | 5 | 1,411 6 0 | ..... | |
| Hurreechund Purumchund, Goozur. | 27 | 3 | 6 | 2,522 0 0 | ..... | |
| Dhondappa Naik Kuddulgekur. | 21 | 5 | 5 | 1,038 6 0 | ..... | |
| Sunker Naik Jewajee Nurgoondeekur. | 28 | 1 | 3 | 5,700 0 0 | ..... | |
| Upon the Company's Treasury. | 25 | 3 | 2 | ..... | ..... | No booty. |
| Kallappa Surreekur.. | 26 | 3 | 1 | 5,000 0 0 | ..... | |
| Upon the shop of Sherrychund Marwaree, in the Camp Bazar of Sir T. Munro. | 20 | 1 | 1 | 7,000 0 0 | ..... | |
| Upon the Chowree... | 26 | 3 | 6 | 1,100 0 0 | ..... | Three shroffs had alighted at the chowree, and they were plundered. |
| Jugonnathdass Sahookar. | 11 | 3 | 4 | 9,000 0 0 | ..... | Some Lumbanee Dacoits joined the Bhats on these two occasions. |
| Wassappa bin Venketdass, Goozur. | 20 | 3 | 2 | 657 0 0 | ..... | |

| Number. | Date. | Where Committed. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Village. | Talooka. | Zilla. |
| 64 | In 1840 or 1841 ..... | Kellee Mahim, near Bombay. | Mahim..... | Tanna ..... |
| 65 | Date unknown..... | Ugsee ..... | Goa ..... | Goa ..... |
| 66 | In 1844 ..... | Mungelee..... | Mungelee..... | Sholapore ..... |

*Assistant General Superintendent's Office, Coorla,*
*1st April* 1846.

| On whose House. | Strength of the Gang. | Killed. | Wounded. | Amount of Property taken. | Amount recovered. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Rs. a. p. | Rs. a. p. | |
| Upon a Brahmin's house. | 10 | .. | .. | ..... | ..... | The Dacoits got no booty. |
| Upon a Sonar's house. | 8 | .. | 2 | 30 0 0 | ..... | |
| In the Camp of some Troops marching from Bellary to Sholapore. | 9 | .. | .. | 125 0 0 | ..... | |

(Signed) C. Hervey, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

N.B.—In these sixty-six gang robberies, the total number of Dacoits actually engaged amounted to 664; of whom—

| | |
|---|---|
| Is under investigation ..... | 1 |
| Have died ..... | 100 |
| Have been transported for life, or sentenced to limited imprisonment with hard labour ..... | 222 |
| Have been admitted as approvers ..... | 67 |
| Are at large (including 31 released) ..... | 274 |
| Total.... | 664 |

(Signed) C. Hervey.

# APPENDIX D.

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 1.

Dacoity at Gowaghur, in the Rutnagherry Collectorate, by Mussoo Naik.

This was committed by a gang of eleven Dacoits upon the house of a person related to the late Bajeerao. It was a very large house, and at the 'deoree' door (or door leading into the yard of the premises) was a guard of four or five able-bodied men (all asleep), armed with swords, shields, and matchlocks. The owner of the house was among them. The Dacoits first took away their weapons, and then secured them by tying up their arms behind them. With hatchets and with stones they next tried to break open the door of the house, but without effect. They then threatened to murder the owner of the house, whereupon he called to his wife to open the door, and then he desired them to take all they could, but not to kill any one. The house was full of wealth; but, owing to the small number of the gang, the Dacoits could carry off a booty to the value, they said, of *only* Rs. 14,545-12-0, consisting of gold and silver ornaments. The villagers pursued the robbers, but seized no one. On the following day, however, a man of the tribe was seized for this robbery, and subsequently four others. Three were sentenced to five years' imprisonment with hard labour; but only one of them had taken part in the dacoity.*

Seven men of this gang, including three approvers, have been sentenced to life transportation through this Agency; three are dead; and the eleventh, now a very old man, was lately released after undergoing a limited punishment.

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 2.

Kaseegaum Dacoity, in the Sattara State.

This was a dacoity upon the house of the village Koolkurnee, now a Mamlutdar. There happened not to be any frame to the village gate, so that one of the Dacoits contrived, by digging away the earth a little, to pass his body through the aperture at the bottom of the door. He then removed the fastening of the gate inside, and let his associates into the village. They

* N.B.—Where stated, in the series of these remarks, that parties were seized, punished, or released, such seizures were by the *local Police;* but the results of the *final* proceedings against the several gangs, as exhibited at the foot of each case, were from the subsequent arrests and committals on the part of this Office.—C. H.

proceeded in a body up to the doomed house; a ladder was placed against a wall of it, by which means the yard was attained; the door leading into the yard was then opened, and, after all had come in, they forced their entrance into the house. Their booty was to the value of Rs. 700 (or Rs. 1,998-6-0 according to the Koolkurnee's account). They escaped.

But as the gang happened very early one morning, about twelve or thirteen days subsequently, to be passing by the village of Khurdee, near Punderpoor, on their way back to Poona, they were seized by the Koolkurnee of that place, upon whose house a dacoity had but a few nights previously been committed by one of the Sholapore gangs from the other side of the Bheema. The Koolkurnee searched the robbers, and, on finding in their possession the articles they had plundered at Kaseegaum, he declared the same to be a part of what had been stolen from him, so he forced the robbers to disgorge it all to him, and a sum of Rs. 500 besides! He then released them. He even managed to get an award in his favour accordingly from the Sattara Durbar; but his conduct was found to be so reprehensible, when the circumstances attending this dacoity, and that upon his house at Khurdee, were investigated in this Office, and his endeavours to qualify his evidence so palpable,—which, if not discovered, might have led to the acquittal of both gangs, his effort being to prove that the Kaseegaum gang, and not the other, were the culprits,—that I was obliged to report him to Government, who deprived him of his Koolkurnee holding.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees and Ramoosees ..... | 15 |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation ..... | 1 |
| Transported for life ..... | 8 |
| Deceased ..... | 1 |
| Under investigation ..... ..... | 1 |
| At large, belonging to the Ramoosee tribe ..... | 4 |
| Total.... | 15 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 3.

Dacoity at Khurdee, near Punderpoor, by Purrakurmee Naik.

This was upon the house of two brothers, who were the Koolkurnees of the village; according to whom, the loss they sustained amounted to Rs. 4,462, but according to the Dacoits, to no more than Rs. 350! The village at that time belonged to the Sattara State, and the object of the plundered parties in assessing their losses at so great an amount was, that, in accordance with the custom of the Sattara Durbar, they might obtain a comparatively high award against the village Ramoosees or watchmen, who would be called upon to make good the same, *which generally they have only been able to do from the proceeds of dacoities they themselves have been obliged to commit*

in consequence. The Naik of the gang, a very celebrated leader, and now an approver, while escaping from this dacoity, suspected that his men had not given up everything that had been robbed, for he had expected a much larger booty; so that, after crossing the river Bheema, he halted the gang, and had recourse to a plan sometimes adopted by the tribe, of making every one step into the water with a belt of unslaked chunam fastened round the waist; the belief being, that if the man undergoing such an ordeal were innocent, the lime would not be affected by the water! The plan used to have, nevertheless, the effect, upon superstitious minds, of leading a delinquent to discover himself by symptoms of fear *before* he stepped into the water,—not that the lime would not really get slaked by it if he were innocent. On the present occasion, the Naik saw that all went into the river fearlessly; from which he felt satisfied that no part of the booty had been concealed by any one of them. The fact of this plan having really been resorted to was, to my mind, however unusual the argument, a further proof that the Koolkurnees had given an exaggerated return of their losses.* They are the parties adverted to in the account of the dacoity at Kaseegaum under No. 2.

One of the brothers, with a party of men, pursued the robbers, and traced them to a village in the Môhole Talooka, where the leader (Purrakurmee) resided under an assumed mame; and he and two or three others of the gang were seized, for he was recognised from a wound on his foot, which the Koolkurnee had, during the robbery, himself inflicted with a stone flung at him from the house-top, and he saw that it had made him limp; but as the village was out of the jurisdiction of the territory (Sattara) from which the pursuit had issued, the Patel of it, who was in league with the Dacoits, in the first place allowed Purrakurmee to escape, and to conceal himself in the neighbouring common disguised as a female, and then he refused to give up any of the other prisoners. A complaint was made on the subject, but without redress. It was after this that the Koolkurnees arrested the other gang of Dacoits, as they were passing by Khurdee with the booty recently obtained in the dacoity at Kaseegaum, mentioned under No. 2.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang | 13 |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation | 1 |
| Transported for life | 4 |
| Limited imprisonment with hard labour | 1 |
| Deceased | 0 |
| At large | 7 |
| Total | 13 |

* Which was afterwards discovered to have been really so, for the reasons already given.—C. H.

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 4.

Dacoity at Sirgaum, in the Sattara Elaka.

This dacoity was upon the house of a wealthy Brahmin. After posting their watches round about the premises in the usual manner, the Dacoits applied a ladder to a window that was high up in a side wall of the house, and which they broke with a hatchet. Two or three robbers leaped down through it, and so opened the yard door of the house for their associates outside, who rushed in and got possession of a booty to the value of about Rs. 1,500, obtained as well from the persons of the female inmates and children, as from a closet which they had broken into. They were pursued by the villagers, but no one was captured. They reached their encampment at Therla,* near Poona, next day, and at sunset they buried their booty in a field belonging to the Patel of the village. He perceived this, and, digging it up, took possession of it. A few days after this, the robbers discovered their loss, and thereupon they threatened the Patel, declaring they would attack his house next, and murder him; upon which he restored a portion of the property, retaining a few of the articles. His questionable conduct in this transaction was brought to the notice of the District Authorities, but no punishment followed. When summoned to give evidence in this Office, he spoke with great reservation, and it was not till a fellow Patel spoke out about the whole business, that he thought proper to admit the above facts, which had been previously spoken to, not only by the approver to this dacoity, but were found to be recorded in the documents appertaining to the investigation that took place at the time.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Strength of the gang ..... | 21 | |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation ..... | | 1 |
| Transported for life ..... | | 15 |
| Limited imprisonment with hard labour..... | | 2 |
| Under investigation ..... | | 1 |
| At large..... | | 2 |
| | Total.... | 21 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 5.

Dacoity at Bulsar, in the Surat Zilla, by a Poona Gang.

This dacoity was upon two houses adjoining each other, and the gang divided itself into two bodies, each under a distinct leader, and so plundered both dwellings. The entrance into one was effected through the roof,

* Distant about forty-five miles.

and into the other by breaking through a window, by which means the front doors of both were opened from the inside. The booty obtained from either house was to the extent of Rs. 2,500 (or Rs. 6,152-12-0 according to the plundered parties). On leaving the premises, the Dacoits found themselves surrounded by the assembled villagers, accompanied by some sepoys of the line; but, without hesitation, the robbers boldly fell upon them, and broke through them. Only one man was seized, after he had been cut down by one of the sepoys. He is now an approver, and was the first man of the Kaikaree tribe who became an approver.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang ..... | 24 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation..... | 4 |
| Transported for life ..... | 19 |
| At large..... | 1 |
| Total.... | 24 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 6.

Dacoity at Nursingpoor, in the Sattara State.

This robbery was upon the dwelling of an influential Jagheerdar. On the Dacoits arriving at the premises, their first act was to lay hold of some sepoys who were asleep at the vestibule, and to tie them up by their elbows. They then posted the usual watches, and next broke through a wicket in the large front door. In the mean time the alarm had been taken up, so that the Dacoits were thwarted, and had to set about escaping. In a body, they fell upon the assembled village people, and fought their way through them. They were, however, pursued for some distance in the dark, along the bank of the river Krishna, and on reaching a spot where there was a threshing-floor, they found themselves assaulted by the people in charge of it. A regular fight now ensued; the Dacoits prevailed, and, escaping, dispersed in all directions; but one of them had got seriously wounded, and he was made a prisoner. He was sentenced by the Commissioner at Sattara to three years' imprisonment with hard labour, and he is now an approver. His account was,—"We were assailed by the village people, and had no time to obtain any plunder; but forgetting our road, we took another. I had been posted in one of the lanes, and so got left behind. Five or six village Ramoosees surrounded me. I knocked one of them down with my club. My feet, however, got entangled in the strings of a sling, with which I was also provided, so as to make me fall down; whereupon the other Ramoosees set upon me, and cut me about with

their swords." He was regularly *mauled*, and his sword-wounds were six in number: a deep gash across his nose and face, giving him a frightful appearance; two cuts across the right arm, above the wrist, to which the hand now hangs; a deep cut over the left shoulder, and another long gash across the left thigh; and forefinger of the right hand cut off.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Strength of the gang | 17 | |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation | | 8 |
| Transported for life | | 7 |
| Killed in a subsequent dacoity | | 1 |
| At large | | 1 |
| Total | | 17 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 7.

Dacoity at Nursingpoor, in the Poona Collectorate, by a Sholapore Gang.

This was upon the house of a Brahmin Shroff. The Dacoits had their 'tippun,' or rendezvous, at Temboornee, which, though six miles from the place of the dacoity, was not approved of by a celebrated character of the gang named Ellia Kongaria, or the 'Quarrelsome Ellia,' now an approver. He declared harm would come of it, as that it was too close, and so sulked, and withdrew from the enterprise. The dacoity was nevertheless committed, and a booty carried off to the value of Rs. 139-8-0. The Dacoits had, however, been resisted, and one them was shot down. He was carried off by his comrades; but, as they were pressed, they were obliged to put him down and make off. The wounded man was taken by the Police in triumph to Indapoor, the chief town of the Talooka so called. As anticipated by the Police Amuldar and his people, the man's wife and children appeared early next morning, for they were at the Dacoits' rendezvous. It was expected that through them he would be led to confess, or that they would be induced to lead the Police upon the rest of the gang. But the Dacoit remained staunch; he would not acknowledge his wife,—declared he did not know who she was,—and died!

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Strength of the gang | 15 | |
| Transported for life | | 2 |
| Deceased | | 1 |
| Released | | 1 |
| At large | | 11 |
| Total | | 15 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 8.

Dacoity at Bhewndy, in the Tanna Zilla, by Mussoo Naik.

This robbery was effected at midnight, by the Dacoits applying a ladder to the house. Seven of their number ascended by it to the terrace, where they broke through a wicket leading down some stairs into the interior of the house. They then broke into the room in which all the valuables were kept, and from it obtained a bag containing Rs. 1,000 in cash. They got also other things, to the value of about Rs. 2,500 more. In the mean while, the alarm having been taken up, the house was surrounded by the villagers, accompanied by some sepoys of the line, upon which the Dacoits sallied out in a body at the front door of the house, and, boldly falling upon them, made off. The Dacoit who carried the bag of money was, however, grappled with by one of the sepoys. In the struggle the bag was dropped, but the Dacoit threw off his opponent and escaped. According to the approvers, the value of the booty amounted to no more than Rs. 400, because they got no more for it.

The gang consisted of sixteen men, of whom ten have been sentenced to life transportation (including four approvers), four have died, and two are at large.

---

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 9.

Dacoity at Dhoolia, in Khandeish, by Mussoo Naik.

This robbery was upon the house of the Sheristedar of the Magistrate's Office, Dhoolia being a Civil Station. After lighting their torches, some of the gang climbed upon the terrace of the house, and descended into the enclosed yard of it through a water-spout. The yard door was thus opened for the rest, who then broke through the door of the house, and plundered it to the extent of Rs. 2,000 (or Rs. 2,963-8-0 according to the plundered party). The females of the house were deprived of their ornaments. The robbers were pursued, but no one was seized.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang ..... | 18 |
| Disposed of, viz :— | |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation..... | 8 |
| Transported for life ..... | 4 |
| Deceased ..... | 3 |
| At large..... | 3 |
| Total.... | 18 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 10.

Dacoity at Ghorebunder, in Salsette, Tanna.

This robbery was upon the house of a Brahmin, upon information obtained from a Vakeel or pleader practising in the Court of the Session Judge of Tanna, and who had often been employed by the tribe to plead their cause when they have occasionally been tried in that Court; so that a mutual understanding had sprung up between them. He appointed one of his own men to accompany the gang, and lent them, moreover, some weapons. The gang proceeded from Tanna itself, where the above individual resided. The premises were surrounded in the usual manner, and the approaches to it blocked up with thorns. A window was then broken, and entered, and the door of the house thus opened from the inside. The booty was to the value of Rs. 100 (or Rs. 1,385-8-0 according to the plundered party), a portion whereof was given to the Vakeel, who deposited the same in the house of another Vakeel. The latter gave information thereof, whereupon the other was seized, and, through him, the whole of the gang was taken into custody. By dint of blows and threats (say the approvers), they confessed. One was admitted as Queen's evidence, and the trial ended in the conviction and imprisonment with hard labour of eight men, including the Vakeel and his servant, to the imprisonment of another for twelve months, and one man was acquitted. The leader of the gang escaped.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, excluding the Vakeel and his servant.... | 11 |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation ..... | 1 |
| Transportation for life, *including the leader* ..... | 6 |
| Limited imprisonment with hard labour ..... | 2 |
| Under investigation ..... | 1 |
| At large ..... | 1 |
| Total.... | 11 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 11.

Dacoity at Saeegaum, in the Sattara State.

The robbers on this occasion, at the outset, thrashed and secured the persons of eight or ten village guards, who were sleeping at the 'chowree' or police station, which was close to the house. Some of the Dacoits were

appointed to look after them, and keep them quiet, while the rest made the attack. A ladder was placed against a wall, the yard leaped into, and the principal door opened. The robbers then, after lighting their torches, forced open the door leading into the house, and from the persons of the female inmates obtained a booty to the value of about Rs. 2,000 (or Rs. 4,725-8-0 according to the account of the plundered Brahmin). The gang escaped, as usual.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 22 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation | 2 |
| Transported for life | 16 |
| Limited imprisonment with hard labour | 2 |
| Under investigation | 1 |
| At large | 1 |
| Total | 22 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 12.

Dacoity at Chinchnee, in the Belgaum Zilla.

This was upon the house of a Jagheerdar, and was the deed of a Sholapore gang. The house happened to be close to the village wall, by which, indeed, the yard of it was enclosed on one side. There was a door there. A ladder was placed against this wall from the outside of the village, and thus that door was opened from the inside. The front door on the village side was then secured, to prevent any attack in that direction. The booty on this occasion amounted to Rs. 1,200 (or Rs. 5,423-14-0 according to the house-owner). The Dacoits escaped through the door in the wall. The owner of the house believed that one of his female servants was associated with the robbers, and had let them in through the postern above described, and she was, upon the evidence he got up against her, tried in a Sessions Court, and, on conviction, sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for eighteen months.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 15 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation | 2 |
| Transported for life | 12 |
| Killed in a subsequent dacoity | 1 |
| Total | 15 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 13.

Dacoity at Uthnee, in the Belgaum Zilla.

This dacoity was also committed by a Sholapore gang. The booty was to the value of Rs. 400 (or Rs. 874-5-9 according to the owner of the house). The robbers escaped, but six of the villagers were tried for the robbery in a Sessions Court, and were sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for six years; but on a representation from this Office to Government of the real culprits having been professional Dacoits, they were liberated. A Duffedar of Police was also sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment on account of this robbery, for neglect, with loss of situation; but, on his appeal through this Office, he was reinstated.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 16 | |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation | | 3 |
| Transported for life | | 11 |
| Killed in a subsequent dacoity | | 1 |
| At large | | 1 |
| Total | | 16 |

---

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 14.

Dacoity at Patkoolee, in the Sholapore Collectorate.

The owner of the house had succeeded, by threatening the village Ramoosees with a trial, to obtain from them a compensation for this robbery, and he had reported to the District Authority that he had no demands to make on account of his losses; so that when the real culprits were subsequently seized by this Agency, with a portion of the property, and the man's evidence was required in this Office, he withheld it, owing to the above circumstance, and I very nearly failed in proving this dacoity in consequence. The Dacoits were, however, convicted in a Sessions Court; but the sentence was annulled by the Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 14 | |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation | | 1 |
| Transported for life | | 2 |
| At large | | 11 |
| Total | | 14 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 15.

Dacoity at Chinchnee Tarapoor, in the Tanna Collectorate.

Two ladders were used in this dacoity, and the entrance into the premises effected at two points, through windows that were broken open with hatchets. The front door was thus opened. The house was then plundered. A booty to the extent of about Rs. 6,000 had already been obtained, and the plunder was still going on, when, by accident, some silk cloths took fire from one of the torches, the smoke arising from which blinded the robbers, upon which they left the house. All escaped. The gang was from Poona, and consisted of—

| | |
|---|---|
| Kaikarees | 17 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation | 6 |
| Transported for life | 9 |
| Deceased | 1 |
| At large | 1 |
| Total | 17 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 16.

Dacoity at Poona.

This dacoity was upon the house of the late Captain Hart, of the 6th Native Infantry, situated near the bridge at the Sungum, or junction of the rivers Moolla and Mootta, close to the Adawlut, and to the residence of the Session Judge of Poona, in whose grounds a Kaikaree Dacoit, under sentence of hard labour *for a crime he had not committed*, had of late been daily employed as a malee or gardener. The robbery was committed by a joint gang of Kaikarees and Ramoosees.* The robbers were detected entering the house, and one of them was seized, they said, by the saheb (I believe, by Captain Hart himself). The rest escaped, but a few days subsequently four others of the Ramoosee portion of the gang were arrested. They were tried: one man was transported for life, three were acquitted, and one died before trial.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang | 13 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation | 2 |
| Transported for life | 3 |
| Deceased | 1 |
| At large (Ramoosees) | 7 |
| Total | 13 |

* This was after this Malee-Dacoit had undergone his sentence. He told me that he used often to mark Captain Hart's house with a wistful eye, from the garden of the Judge, but he did not himself take active part in this robbery.—C. H.

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 17.

Dacoity at Dapooree (Poona), by Naiks Elloo-Koetulkah, and Kurroo.

This dacoity took place at midnight, upon the house of a Brahmin at Dapooree, hard by Government House. The robbers forced their entrance into it by bursting open the door with stones; they deprived the females of the house of their ornaments, and so carried off a booty to the value of Rs. 300. So say the approvers to this dacoity; but the owner of the house would not give in any list of the same, declaring nothing was taken. All escaped.

The gang consisted of 23 men, of whom a Naik and 3 Dacoits are approvers under sentence of life transportation; 9 others have been transported for life, 8 have died, and 2 are at large.

---

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 18.

Dacoity at Bandora, close to Bombay, by a Poona Gang.

This was upon the house of a Portuguese. Having, in the usual manner, posted their watches round about the house, the Dacoits lighted their torches, and, with hatchets, broke through the door. They rushed in, and deprived the female inmates and children of all they had upon them, and made off with a booty to the value of Rs. 100 (or Rs. 160 according to the plundered party). They escaped.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 13 |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation | 1 |
| Transported for life | 7 |
| Limited imprisonment with hard labour | 2 |
| In custody | 1 |
| Deceased | 1 |
| At large | 1 |
| Total.... | 13 |

---

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 19.

Dacoity at Oorun, opposite to Bombay.

This village is on the Island of Caranjah, which forms one of the tall hills on the other side of the Bombay Harbour. The robbers, who were from Poona, got upon the island from the mainland at low tide, and escaped, after

committing the robbery, at high tide, by means of gourds. The village people in consequence thought that they were still on the island, and so they searched it in all directions. The robbers, mean time, were safe enough with their booty. The entrance into the premises was effected by the good woman of the house coming to the door and opening it to see what the noise meant the robbers were making,—they were endeavouring, with an axe, to force a window. She was immediately laid hold of, and deprived of her ornaments. A box was broken into and rifled, and a booty obtained to the value of Rs. 2,500 (or Rs. 3,550-4-0 according to the plundered party).

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees ..... | 12 |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation ..... | 1 |
| Transported for life ..... | 7 |
| Deceased ..... | 3 |
| Escaped before trial ..... | 1 |
| Total.... | 12 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 20.

Dacoity at Mahableshwur.

This was done by a gang from Sattara, and was upon the house of a Brahmin in the village of Mahableshwur, near the Sanitarium Station on the hills so called. The robbers during the day concealed themselves in the adjacent forest, and at night came to the village from the direction of Nehur, near to the European bungalows. They posted their guards round about the house in the usual manner, lighted their torches, broke down with axes the door of the house, made the females give up all their ornaments, and made off with a booty to the value of Rs. 50 (or Rs. 395-8-0 according to the Brahmin's account). They escaped by Nehur, descended the Ghaut on the Sattara side, and got down to their encampment *in the city of Sattara,** by the route that leads down to it over the Eoteshwur Hill. This was the second robbery at Mahableshwur by the same gang.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees ..... | 18 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation ..... | 4 |
| Transported for life ..... | 6 |
| At large ..... | 8 |
| Total.... | 18 |

* Distant about thirty-two miles from the village of Mahableshwur.—C. H.

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 21.

Dacoity at Nirmull, in the Tanna Zilla.

After effecting an entrance into the house by breaking through the door, one of the robbers struck the owner upon the head with a club, and knocked him down. A booty to the value of Rs. 100 had been obtained, when suddenly four Gosaens* fell upon one of the pickets of the robbers posted in one of the lanes outside, and wounded one of them, which caused those posted outside to make off. The Gosaens then rushed into the house, and wounded another Dacoit; this made these also retreat through a back door. The villagers pursued them in the dark, whereupon the Dacoits rushed into a tank, *and hid themselves in it, in the water*, in which, too, they threw away their plunder. The villagers lighted fires round about the tank, and remained by it for about an hour. At last, the search was given up, and they retired. The Dacoits then got out of the water, and escaped to their encampment, but they lost the whole of their plunder, except a gold amulet. According to the plundered party, the loss he sustained amounted to Rs. 409.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 8 | |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation | | 2 |
| Transported for life | | 3 |
| Deceased | | 2 |
| At large | | 1 |
| Total | | 8 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 22.

Dacoity at Kulledhone, in the Sattara State, by Mussoo Naik.

This robbery was upon the house of a Lingayut† merchant. The robbers took with them a ladder they had observed usually placed in the Musjid‡ of the village. With this they got upon the terrace, and then jumped into the yard, and laid open the front door. The door of the house was then broken, and the Dacoits rushed through it with lighted torches, and carried off a quantity of valuables, to the extent of, they believed, Rs. 4,000 (or Rs. 2,397-4-6 as stated by the owner of the house). While making off with their booty, they were opposed by the assembled villagers, but they forced their way through them, and escaped unscathed. Next day, however, they were traced up to their encampment, and the whole seized. "We were beaten and

* Religious mendicants of the Hindoo sect. † A Hindoo sect.

‡ A Mussulman place of worship.

knocked about, and so we confessed and gave up all our booty,* after which we were tried and convicted" (namely seven men to three years' imprisonment with hard labour, and nine to imprisonment for one year).

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang | 16 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation | 9 |
| Transported for life | 5 |
| At large | 2 |
| Total.... | 16 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 23.

Dacoity at Joo, in the Tanna Collectorate.

In this affair the Dacoits were pursued. The village is close to Bombay, and is divided from Bandora Hill by a creek. The water in the creek, when they went to the robbery, was but waist-deep, but the tide had filled when they retreated from it, so that they had to wade through the creek up to their breasts in water. Booty Rs. 150 (or Rs. 307 according to the owner of the house).

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 13 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation | 4 |
| Transported for life | 5 |
| Deceased | 1 |
| At large | 3 |
| Total.... | 13 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 24.

Dacoity at Shelgi, close to the Sholapore Cantonments.

The village where this dacoity took place is within about double musket-range from the residence of the Session Judge of Sholapore, and not much further off from the Criminal Jail. The robbers, after taking the usual precautions outside, climbed up to the terrace, from where a couple of them got down by some stairs into the enclosed yard, the door of which they opened for the rest of their associates. The owner of the house was a Koonbee, or cultivator, and he, his brother, and family were sleeping in a kind of

* Which they had not yet examined, and so believed it was greater than really was the case.

covered veranda. He awoke, and with a churning-staff at once attacked the foremost of the gang, backed by his brother. Both were immediately slaughtered. The booty was to the value of Rs. 300. The Dacoits were not pursued. The alarm of this robbery was taken up in the neighbouring Military Cantonments; patrols were sent about, and the Magistrate reported that he believed the intention had been, on the part of the "numerous gang" by whom it was believed the deed was committed, to have attacked some house in the city that night, but that they had desisted from finding the Police on the alert, and had thereupon committed the robbery at the neighbouring little village. The robbers, however, had long previously planned, not any robbery at Sholapore, but the very one they in fact committed,* and they, as well as a large number of the tribe, had for years resided in the adjacent Talooka of Môhole. All escaped.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 14 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation | 2 |
| Transported for life | 6 |
| Sentenced to life transportation, but released by the Session Judge of Dharwar, under a misapprehension | 3† |
| At large | 3 |
| Total.... | 14 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 25.

Dacoity at Malsirrus, in the Poona Collectorate.

The obsequies of a relative were that night being performed at the house attacked on this occasion. There was a large assembly at the premises; the dead body had been placed in a sitting position, and was surrounded by men and women engaged in chaunting; the door of the house was therefore open. The Dacoits were not aware of these proceedings when they suddenly arrived at the place, which they had marked down to be robbed that very night. They had already posted the different watches round about, and were proceeding to rush in, when they perceived what was going on inside; but they were not to be baulked, and so rushed in. The funeral party at once sat down, aghast; not one raised the slightest opposition. After hurriedly obtain-

* They had, a few nights previously, attempted a dacoity at another village, further on.

† Of whom one got killed in a subsequent dacoity at Chikhullee, in the Akulkote State, and two are at large. (The latter have been recaptured, and await transportation.—May 1858.)



(Signed) C. Hervey.

ing a few articles of property, to the value of about Rs. 40 or 50,* they decamped. They were pursued by the villagers, who, however, ran back on being threatened. All escaped.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 17 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation | 4 |
| Transported for life | 6 |
| Deceased | 4 |
| At large | 3 |
| Total | 17 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 26.

Dacoity at Mungloor, in the Akulkote Elaka, Zilla Sholapore.

The Dacoits, under Purrakurmee Naik, were on this occasion pursued while carrying off their booty. A sort of running fight ensued; at three several points they stood, and endeavoured to check their pursuers, who happened to be led on by a brave village Shetsundee or Policeman, of low caste. Purrakurmee and his brother-in-law were both wounded by him; but all eventually escaped, favoured by the darkness. Next morning, they were traced by the above indefatigable Dhér to their encampment at Khunbus and Rutnapoor, villages that adjoined each other; but the Patels of those places had long harboured these men, and so let them secrete themselves in the adjoining common, declaring they knew nothing about them. I offered the Dhér the place of a Nujeeb in my establishment, but as his village holding was at Mungloor, he could not accept the offer; so that, with the permission of Government, he was publicly presented by me, in the Court of the Political Agent of the Southern Muratha Country, with a silver bangle.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 19 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation | 4 |
| Transported for life | 1 |
| Killed in subsequent dacoities | 2 |
| Deceased | 2 |
| At large (one of whom, after sentence to life transportation in another case, had been inadvertently released by the Session Judge†) | 10 |
| Total | 19 |

* The owner did not say that he had been robbed of anything.

† He was subsequently recaptured.

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 27.

Dacoity at Lalsingee, in the Sholapore Zilla.

This dacoity was conducted by a celebrated leader of the Sholapore gangs, now an approver, who, from having always resided at a village called Nad, got the name of Nad-Tookya. He is a brother of Balia Naik, mentioned under dacoity No. 29. The Dacoits, after they had decamped, and had even reached the outside of the village, discovered that five of their number had been left behind within the premises. They flew back to the rescue. The house was surrounded by the village people, whom they immediately attacked, and two of them were cut down and killed, and the rest put to flight. The Dacoits then rushed into the house, but found that the captured Dacoits had, after disabling three of the inmates of the house, meantime managed to escape by some stairs that led up to the terrace, from which they had leapt down, and so had got away. Upon this all retired. Only one of the Dacoits was wounded in this business, and that but slightly. They lost, however, the most of their booty. All escaped.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees ..... | 19 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation ..... | 3 |
| Transported for life ..... | 4 |
| Deceased ..... | 1 |
| At large ..... | 11 |
| Total.... | 19 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 28.

Dacoity at Singnapoor, in the Sholapore Collectorate.

Two of the gang in this dacoity were lads, and had a year previously been in my custody. They were brothers, and as they had not committed any dacoity with any of my approvers, I had released them. One of them was killed in this affair, and the other, being badly wounded, was seized. I admitted him as an approver, and then learnt from him that *prior* to his release by me he had actually taken part *in as many as twenty-six dacoities*, mostly in the Sholapore Zilla! Balia was again the Naik in this affair. The booty was small, most of what had been obtained having been thrown down in the premises.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees ..... | 12 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation ..... | 3 |
| Transported for life ..... | 4 |
| Killed in the dacoity ..... | 1 |
| At large ..... | 4 |
| Total.... | 12 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 29.

Dacoity at Chandkowta, in the Sholapore Collectorate.

This dacoity was committed by Balia Naik, at the instigation of the son of the Deshpandéh of the place, with the view to the murder of his father's kept mistress, against whom he had a grudge; *and she was murdered accordingly.* She, however, had at once pointed out the closet in which her ornaments were deposited, so that the robbers flew to it, and would have spared her; but presently it was perceived that she wore a valuable saree, of which they began to deprive her. She resisted this, saying that they had got enough, and must leave something upon her; whereupon *they remembered she was to be murdered,* and she was despatched accordingly. The Deshpandéh himself escaped only with his life, after sustaining some severe injuries. The booty was to the value of Rs. 1,024. All escaped to their respective villages in the Indee and Hypurga Talookas.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang ..... | 30 |
| Transported for life ..... | 4 |
| Deceased ..... | 2 |
| At large ..... | 24* |
| Total .... | 30 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 30.

Dacoity at Kāmunkhêree-Boodihall, by a Sholapore Gang.

This was upon the house of a Jungum. The robbers were pursued, and a fight ensued; on the side of the villagers, three or four men were severely wounded, and one was killed; one of the Dacoits, too, was cut down, but he was carried off by his associates. By the time they had reached a nulla close to Kulkêhree, the day had dawned, so that they concealed themselves there, and they sent one of their number into the village for some liquor. He came back with a quantity of it, but was himself drunk. Associated with the gang were a Wanee and a Jungum. All drank freely. The Wanee was charged with appropriating a portion of the booty; a drunken broil ensued; the leader of the gang,† with a blow of his sword, cut off the Wanee's head. The body was immediately buried in the sand, in the bed of the nulla. Next day, the headless trunk was found left by the water at a neighbouring village, and as it was known that the above dacoity had taken place two nights pre-

* I have not any approver who was an accomplice in this robbery as yet. Great efforts were made on the part of Balia's brother (approver Nad-Tookya, mentioned under dacoity No. 27) to persuade me to admit Balia to that grade, but I would not consent to it.—C.H.

† This Naik's name was Rania.

viously, and that one of the Docoits was stated to have been killed and carried off, it was declared by the inquest that "the corpse now found was that of the Dacoit." He, however, is now alive. All the Dacoits escaped.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, consisting of Kaikaree and Mooltanee Dacoits* | 29 |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation | 1 |
| Transported for life, including the leader | 3 |
| Deceased | 6 |
| At large | 19 |
| Total | 29 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 31.

Dacoity at Beejapoor, Sattara.

The Dacoits had committed this robbery at a late hour, so that at dawn they halted at a village some little distance from Beejapoor. They were in the act of examining their booty, when they were tracked up and found. The leader of the gang, a notorious Naik, since deceased,† happened to be mounted at the time: one of the Police laid hold of the bridle of his horse, and struck at him with his sheathed sword. The blow was parried, and the robber leaped off his horse, and escaped, with all his men. The horse, however, and a pack bullock laden with the booty, fell into the hands of the Police.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, consisting of Kaikarees and Mooltanees | 18 |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation | 1 |
| Transported for life | 4 |
| Deceased | 4 |
| At large | 9 |
| Total | 18 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 32.

Dacoity at Allullee, in the Sholapore Zilla, under Nad-Tookya Naik.

The Dacoits on this occasion set fire to the house, for they were opposed by the owner of it, who stood at the door armed with a threshing-staff. They struck at him, but he parried their thrusts, and even broke a couple of their swords. Out of feelings of revenge at having been baulked by him of

* These Mooltanee Dacoits are not the same class of robbers so called in Upper India, but are a different people, and in these parts are also called Juts and Jutters, and sometimes Kummés.

† Called "Tookia of Mulgau."

their booty, they set fire to a pile of wood close to the house, and in the conflagration his child was burnt to death; also all his cattle, and grain, and everything he had, were destroyed. Three of the Dacoits mingled with the crowd that assembled to witness all these results. Satisfied with the mischief they had already occasioned, one of them rushed into the house, and brought out the man's wife. The owner himself was badly burnt, and had fainted and fallen down, and he also was rescued by them from the flames. All the Dacoits escaped.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 13 |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation | 2 |
| Transported for life | 3 |
| Deceased | 6 |
| At large | 2 |
| Total | 13 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 33.

Dacoity at Sirshyal, in the Sholapore Collectorate.

This dacoity was also under the leadership of Balia Naik, and it was committed upon a party of Revenue Surveyors, at the instigation of the Patel of the village, who had been discovered by them to have rendered a false statement of his village lands. He had endeavoured to bribe them not to make any report of it, and as it was an object to deprive them of the documents in their possession by which his guilt could be proved, he invited Balia from Nad, to rob them, promising him Rs. 50 if he would bring him the papers, which he told them were kept in a certain box, which they were to carry off. The Surveyors were lodging in a Musjid outside of the village, and the robbery was effected in a masterly style, *exactly as the Patel wanted it to be done.*

He was lately arraigned by me with the Dacoits of the gang, and, with them, was sentenced to life transportation by the Political Agent Southern Muratha Country, but Government did not consider the conviction in his case to be sustained, and he was therefore released, on furnishing security.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 11 |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation | 1 |
| Transported for life | 5 |
| Deceased | 2 |
| At large | 3 |
| Total | 11 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 34.

Dacoity at Chincholee, in the Akulkote State, Sholapore.

In a former dacoity at this village, four favourite members of the tribe, who were brothers, had lost their lives; and this had long been brooded over. The present robbery was therefore undertaken more from motives of revenge, with the view to the murder of some of the village people. The booty did not amount, according to the account of the robbers, to more than Rs. 20. They cut down the owner of the house, and one of his sepoys. The villagers, however, did not oppose the robbers on this occasion, and so nothing further transpired. The encampment of the Dacoits was not far off, but no pursuit was made, nor attempt to find them out.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 17 | |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation | | 1 |
| Transported for life | | 3 |
| At large | | 11 |
| Deceased | | 2 |
| Total | | 17 |

---

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 35.

Dacoity at Chikhullee, in the Akulkote State, Zilla Sholapore.

The gang in this dacoity was joined by some of those who, *after conviction and sentence to life transportation* on a committal from this Office, *had, by the Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut, been set at liberty. One of the latter* was killed in this affair, and three others of the gang were wounded. It was an unsuccessful dacoity, for three of the robbers were seized. They were tried at Akulkote by the Durbar, but were released, except one man, who, on being sent to this Office, was admitted by me as an approver.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 12 | |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation | | 1 |
| Transported for life | | 1 |
| Killed in the dacoity | | 1 |
| At large | | 9 |
| Total | | 12 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 36.

Dacoity at Munnoor, in the Sholapore Zilla.

This dacoity was committed in the dark, *without torch-lights*, and a man of the house was stabbed to the heart while endeavouring to grapple with one of the Dacoits.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees ..... ..... | 13 |
| Transported for life ..... | 1 |
| Limited imprisonment with hard labour for seven years ..... | 2* |
| At large ..... | 10 |
| Total.... | 13 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 37.

Dacoity on a Threshing-floor at Latchan, in the Sholapore Collectorate, by Nad-Tookya Naik.

This was a dacoity upon the threshing-floor of a cultivator in a field outside of the village, and was committed by moonlight. On the present occasion, the Dacoits were actuated by revenge. One of them happened, during the day, to have been detected pilfering ears of corn from the field in question, and the cultivator had slapped him on the face, and deprived him of his blanket. He swore he would be avenged, and went and complained to his associates, whom he easily persuaded to plunder the store of grain. This they did at midnight, *and they murdered the poor man also.* Another keeper of the field ran off, but was pursued, and cut down. He begged for his life, and was let off.

Similar robberies of grain, collected on threshing-floors in the open fields in harvest-time, have constantly been committed by the Sholapore gangs, *invariably by moonlight*, and on almost every occasion have been attended with murder and wounding, *and the real culprits have seldom been seized.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees..... | 14 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation ..... | 3 |
| Transported for life ..... | 6 |
| Killed in a subsequent dacoity, namely a son of the Naik on the occasion ..... | 1 |
| At large..... | 4 |
| Total.... | 14 |

* These two men had also been sentenced to life transportation, but the sentence was commuted by Government to seven years' imprisonment with hard labour.

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 38.

Dacoity at Bamunhully, Zilla Sholapore.

The plan on this occasion was to plunder the house of a certain Sootar, or carpenter. The attempt was made, but it began to rain heavily, which prevented the Dacoits from lighting their torches; besides which, the people of the house became aware of their presence, so that the Dacoits left that house, and went to another that had not any court-yard to it; but they plundered it of but a few things, as, on account of the rain and extreme darkness, they were unable to find more. They were pursued, but managed to get clear of the village; but at about a koss from it they were stopped by a nulla, which they found to be a perfect torrent, caused by the rain. Three of them tried to swim across it, but one of the number was drowned. By this time it began to dawn, so that the robbers were obliged to throw away their booty into the nulla, and to double back, and get to their encampment by a circuitous route. All escaped.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 15 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation | 3 |
| Transported for life | 5 |
| Drowned at the time | 1 |
| Deceased | 5 |
| At large | 1 |
| Total | 15 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 39.

Dacoity at Butgeerah, in the Dharwar Collectorate.

This was a robbery by a Dharwar or Canara gang.* Cholera was raging in the village at the time, and the inhabitants, in great alarm, slept every night outside of their houses. Some of the village Police were in league with the robbers, and advised them to take advantage of this circumstance, as that no resistance was likely to be offered. The dacoity was committed accordingly. The house was broken into, and a booty to the value of Rs. 7,000 carried off; but a large quantity of this the robbers lost, for they had buried it in earthen vessels in the sand in a certain nulla. In the mean time, twelve of their number, with some of the villagers, were seized on suspicion. Their case was under investigation for three months, and they were eventually desired to furnish heavy securities. This they succeeded in doing *by paying*

* So called, because they plunder on both sides of the border. On the Canara side, these Kaikaree or Korwee robbers are called *Korchurs*.

*men to become their securities,* and they were released.* In the mean time, the rains had commenced, and the Dacoits found that what they had hidden in the nulla had been washed away by the inundations. The Kotwal of Dharwar was declared by the Dacoits to have been in league with them, and to have favoured their release, by receiving from them two or three very valuable gold ornaments out of their booty.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, consisting of the quotas of seven Naiks.. | 31 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation ..... | 8 |
| Transported for life ..... | 10 |
| At large, mostly village people ..... | 13 |
| Total.... | 31 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 40.

Dacoity at Kowlullee, near Kittoor, in the Belgaum Collectorate.

This was a dacoity upon the house of the Agent of a Jagheerdar of the Southern Muratha Country; the females of it were deprived of their ornaments. The owner escaped to the roof by a trap-door. His son had valuable bracelets on his wrists, which the robbers tried in every way to get possession of: they smeared the boy's hands with oil, put rice husks over them, and were on the point of cutting off his hands, when at last one of them managed to get possession of the coveted articles, after lacerating the poor child very much. Booty Rs. 40 (or Rs. 730-1-6 according to the house-owner). The latter made himself very useful to me in tracing out this robbery, and in prosecuting the robbers to conviction.

Several men (villagers) were tried for this dacoity, and sentenced to limited imprisonment with hard labour; but they were eventually released by Government, on a representation from this Office that the deed had been that of professional Dacoits.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, consisting of the quotas of nine Naiks.. | 29 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation ..... | 7 |
| Transported for life ..... | 11 |
| Deceased..... | 1 |
| At large ..... | 10† |
| Total.... | 29 |

* The most of whom were real culprits; but they were arrested by this Department, and are of those who were subsequently convicted.

† Of whom four were aged Dacoits, who were released by me on security, and placed under the Police of certain villages.

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 41.

Dacoity at Yemkunmurdee, Zilla Belgaum, by a Gang of Badamee, Gokak, and Dharwar Dacoits.

This dacoity was upon the house of a Têlee or oilman. All approaches to it were blocked up by the robbers with thorns. A hole was dug through the wall at one side of the door, by which means the cross-bar and fastenings inside were removed. They then entered the dwelling with lighted torches, and deprived the inmates of whatever they had upon them. The village people flung stones at the Dacoits posted outside on the watch. Stones flew on both sides; and two or three of the villagers were hurt. The Dacoits withdrew, without discovery, to their encampment in the waste country beyond Gokak. A large number of people were seized on suspicion for this robbery, and among them, by chance, *the Naik of the Gokak portion of the gang, also one of his men;* but *all were released,* except *some of the villagers of Yemkunmurdee,* who, because they were declared to have been at enmity with the owner of the house, were, upon his evidence, and *because they confessed,* tried, convicted, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment with hard labour. They underwent the whole of the punishment. Towards the close of that period it was represented from this Office to Government that the real culprits were professional Dacoits, but Government on this occasion did not direct the release of the villagers.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, consisting of Kaikarees or Korwees,* the quotas of three Naiks | 16 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation | 3 |
| Transported for life, including the three Naiks | 8 |
| Limited imprisonment with hard labour | 1 |
| At large | 4 |
| Total | 16 |

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## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 42.

Dacoity at Moolgoond, in the Elaka of a Putwurdhun of the Southern Muratha Country, Zilla Dharwar.

When the Dacoits essayed with their hatchets to break down the door of the house, in this dacoity, the owner of it stood at the inside of it, armed with a large club, and kept the door secured. A hole, however, was made in it, through which one of the Naiks thrust his

* In the southern districts, the Kaikarees are known as *Korwees;* and elsewhere under different designations.

sword, and wounded the man on his arm; but he remained at his post. So the Dacoits got nothing, and had to decamp.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, including eight Naiks (Kaikarees) .... | 42 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation ..... | 7 |
| Transported for life ..... | 15 |
| Deceased ..... | 2 |
| At large..... | 18 |
| Total.... | 42 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 43.

Dacoity at new Hooblee (Dharwar).

The booty on this occasion, according to the Dacoits, was to the value of Rs. 2,000 (or Rs. 2,526 according to the owner of the house). The Dacoits were opposed,—that is, the Foujdar, attended by a posse of Police, and by a man blowing a conch, bombastically came to the house *as the robbers were escaping from it;* but the conch-blower alone attacked the robbers. They knocked him down, and made off.

The gang on this occasion, as usual in dacoities by Canara Dacoits, whose chief occupation is to commit burglary, consisted of the several quotas of as many as sixteen Naiks, banded together for the purpose.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, consisting of the quotas of sixteen Naiks ..65 | |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation ..... .... | 10 |
| Transported for life ..... | 27 |
| Deceased ..... | 3 |
| At large, including three of the old men mentioned under No. 40 .. | 25 |
| Total.... | 65 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 44.

Dacoity at Adurguttee, in a Putwurdhun's Territory, in the Dharwar Collectorate.

When the Dacoits proceeded to this dacoity, they found a party of horsemen alighted at the village gate, their horses picketted outside by a temple. The robbers cut the head and heel-ropes, and let the horses loose. Some of them then stood over the temple and gateway, to prevent any attack from that quarter, while the rest proceeded to the doomed house, which they broke

* They commit burglary in small parties of from three to five, and sometimes eight men, under their own peculiar Naik or leader. Occasionally they convert the burglary, when not to be accomplished stealthily, into a declared dacoity with lighted torches; and when a dacoity on a large scale has been decided upon, several of these small distinct quotas of robbers join together and so form the gang.

into by means of axes in the usual manner, and plundered it of a booty of Rs. 300 (or Rs. 400 according to the owner of the house). Some villagers pursued them, but desisted on two of them getting cut down. An affray also took place between the men at the temple and the Dacoits posted there, and wounds were inflicted; but all the robbers escaped unscathed.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, including fourteen Naiks..... | 56 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation ..... | 7 |
| Transported for life..... | 20 |
| Deceased..... | 3 |
| At large, including two of the old men mentioned under Nos. 40 and 43. | 26 |
| Total.... | 56 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 45.

Dacoity at Yergoontee, in the Bellary Zilla, by a Gang of Dharwar and Bellary Dacoits.

In this affair three of the Dacoits got badly wounded. They carried off, however, a booty to the value of about Rs. 700. But for the opposition they met with, they might have obtained a very large plunder, as the house was full of wealth.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, including seven Naiks..... | 35 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation ..... | 3 |
| Limited imprisonment with hard labour ..... | 2* |
| At large ..... | 30 |
| Total.... | 35 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 46.

Dacoity at Moolgoond, in the Putwurdhun State, by a Dharwar Gang.

Three dacoities have been committed in this village, now belonging to the Dharwar Zilla. On the occasion here referred to, the Dacoits seized three or four men they found sleeping at the door of the house, *tied them up in bundles in their blankets, and deposited them in the middle of the street*, one of the Dacoits remaining over them to keep them quiet; the rest of the gang then very coolly went on with the dacoity! They broke into the house, deprived

* These two men were sentenced to life transportation, but Government commuted the sentence.

the females of their jewels, belaboured the owner of the house with their clubs, and carried off a booty to the value of Rs. 1,000. All escaped.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees and Wuddurs* ..... | 20 | |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation ..... | | 3 |
| Transported for life ..... | | 3 |
| Deceased ..... | | 3 |
| At large ..... | | 11 |
| Total.... | | 20 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 47.

Dacoity at Gooledgood, Belgaum, by a Badamee Gang.

This was upon the house of a 'joolai' or weaver. Two of the Dacoits were shouldered up to the terrace, from where they descended into the house by a staircase, and then opened the door for the rest of their associates, who rushed in with lighted torches, laid hold of the inmates, snatched off from them all their ornaments, and decamped, for they were prevented from getting into the money room, as two men of the house had, on their first appearance, rushed into it, and secured it from the inside, and the Dacoits had not time to assail it, as the alarm had been taken up in the village, and the men posted outside called out to them to hasten out. The robbers retired to their retreat on a hill situated upon the frontier of the Nizam's territories, a spot where they had for years been located, robbing in both countries, always suspected and feared, but never driven away, their clever old leader having always contrived to deceive the District Authorities, and this to such a degree, that whenever any crime was committed in the neighbourhood, often the deed of his own people, *he used to be consulted as to the probable perpetrators!*†

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees, under six Naiks, all belonging to the same colony, which numbered about 50 Dacoits,‡ under the general leadership of their head man, above alluded to ..... | 31 | |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation, including the old Naik adverted to (Dod Sahibya)..... | | 3 |

* In the Dharwar country, Korwees (Kaikarees) are occasionally joined by Wuddurs, (quarriers and earth-diggers), a sect of whom are Dacoits.

† His name is Dod Sahibya, and he is now an approver.

‡ A few of these Korwees belonged to the division of the tribe who are ostensibly, and indeed really, *snake-charmers and conjurors*, but secretly they are Dacoits and burglars; and this sect are called *Morikars*, who are also very skilful in passing off coloured brass for gold.

| | |
|---|---|
| Transported for life, including five of the Naiks | 15 |
| Limited imprisonment with hard labour | 2 |
| Deceased | 2 |
| At large | 9 |
| Total | 31 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 48.

Dacoity at Elneshwur, in the Rutnagherry Zilla, by a Gang of Mhang Ramoosees, or Hereditary Village Watchmen, of the Sattara Country.

The gang was invited from the upper country by the Sir-Naik of Mhang Ramosees* of the Chiploon Talooka, in the Southern Konkun. The houses attacked were two, adjoining each other. The Dacoits came down from above the mountains by the Bhyroo Ghaut, and returned by the same route, with a very large booty, each man having appropriated whatever he had laid hands on, which is usual among this class of professional robbers. They were not pursued at the time. The booty obtained on this occasion was so heavy (consisting chiefly of cooking utensils) that the robbers *even engaged ten or fifteen 'biggarees' from a village below the Ghaut or pass to carry a portion of it,* to enable them to move quickly, and to reach the upper country of Sattara.

Five or six days subsequently, the Sir-Naik adverted to traitorously came up, with three parties of regular sepoys, and, at Tarlah, caused the seizure of some of the tribe, *who happened not to have had any part in the robbery;* but at the same time he seized also two women, one of whom was the young wife of an influential member of the gang, then himself quite a young man, but afterwards a Naik of great celebrity. He assembled and harangued his people, and persuaded them to venture an attack upon the sepoys, with the view to the rescue of his wife. They consented. The sepoys were encamped at a temple, inside of which they kept their prisoners. The attack took place at midnight. Upwards of one hundred of the tribe, with shouts, rushed upon them with drawn swords. Two of the sepoys were cut down; but the guard kept up a smart fire, which threw the Dacoits back; and as two of their number had been shot dead, and a third badly wounded, the whole made off, without succeeding in their object. The prisoners alluded to were taken to Sattara, and were by the Durbar imprisoned *for one year.* I brought forward this robbery and its consequences but recently, when I commenced operations against this tribe, for the purpose of the conviction particularly of the Naik above alluded to, whose wife was one of those whose rescue was attempted as above. The trial was

* Or village watchmen, called *Rukhwaldars* and *Jaglias.*

beset with difficulties, owing to the time that had elapsed, and to the evidence to the circumstances, proceeding from the Jagheerdar of Tarlah, to summon whom to the Court at Belgaum of the Political Agent Southern Muratha Country was a matter for some consideration, on account of his debility, and great age. Conviction, however, followed, and the Dacoit was transported for life. The gang on this occasion consisted *of twenty-three village watchmen*, under five Naiks; but as operations against these Dacoits have not yet been regularly taken up, owing to a belief that the tribe has very much left off dacoity, the most of them are at large, one being an approver under sentence of life transportation, and six having died.

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## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 49.

Dacoity at Rhymutpoor, in the Sattara State, by village Watchmen.

Although the Mhang Ramooseęs have been most determined Dacoits, they have often, at the same time, shown themselves to be faithful guardians of their own villages against Dacoits. On the present occasion the Sir-Naik of Rhymutpoor had, under the orders of the Maharaj or King of Sattara, been very busy in seizing certain others of the tribe of other villages for dacoities. This exasperated them all, and certain leaders of the tribe were determined to be revenged upon him, by committing a dacoity at his village, in order that he and his watchmen might be heavily fined for it by the Durbar or cabinet, in compensation for what they might carry off,—the usual course in the Sattara State whenever a dacoity has been committed at any village; and their wish, also, was to murder him. They came on, accordingly, one night at midnight, in a large body, from fifty to seventy-five in number, but they were nevertheless stoutly resisted by the village watchmen, *themselves Dacoits*. A stand-up fight ensued; about twenty men on the side of the village were wounded, including a man now an approver with me, who was one of the Rukhwaldars or watchmen of the village. Two were killed outright. The Dacoits, however, made off, with a booty, obtained from two houses, to the extent of about Rs. 3,000, but several of them had also been badly wounded. The obnoxious Sir-Naik, on whose account the robbery had been planned, concealed himself during the affray, and so escaped. He informed the Durbar of the leader and instigator of the business, whose name was Gênya Naik. The latter, however, came and surrendered himself to the Maharaj, who not only pardoned him, but at the same time gave him the rukhwālee charge or watch of the whole of the city of Sattara, *a duty he performed very zealously*.

But some time subsequently, a gang of Bhat or Sansiah Dacoits, from Hindoostan, under Grassia Naik, lately an approver in this Office (they have often depredated in the Southern Murátha Country), committed a dacoity, attended, as usual, with murder and wounding, at Sattara, upon the house of a Goozur. They escaped, as usual, to their distant encampment, and the man Gênya, who could give no account of the culprits, got suspected. It was declared that so successful and murderous an undertaking could have been the deed of no one but Gênya! He was tried by the Durbar, upon what evidence I do not know, *but he was hanged for it.* This business is well known among the tribe.

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## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 50.

Dacoity at Sholapore, on the Military Paymaster's Treasure Tumbril, by Bhat Dacoits.

This was the deed of a gang of Sansiah or Bhat Dacoits, belonging to a celebrated female leader, named Tumbolin, who, after her husband, named Chota Johurree, had been hanged for a dacoity in the Madras Territories (at Podéchoor), took his place at the head of the gang. She used not to lead it in person, but she appointed a very old and successful Dacoit, named Himtya, to do so. She, however, used to superintend all the affairs of the gang, and to accompany it upon all its distant expeditions, remaining during the dacoity at the rendezvous.

These Dacoits invariably committed their gang robberies *at nightfall,* so as to have the whole night before them during which to reach their distant rendezvous, from where they pushed on, without halting, except for a hasty meal, to often a hundred and a hundred and fifty miles from the scene of the dacoity.

On the present occasion, the late Captain R. Lewis, of the 22nd Bombay N. I., was the Deputy Military Paymaster at Sholapore, and he and four or five other Officers (Captain Poole, of the 1st Cavalry, Lancers; Morris, of the 9th N. I.; &c.) had but just returned to his bungalow from a shikar party. They were seated in the veranda, awaiting some refreshments. The guard over the treasure had just relieved its sentries, a double sentinel having been posted for the night over the tumbril. Directly the Dacoits, *only sixteen in number,* had perceived this, and that the sepoys of the guard had retired into the guard-room, the man Himtya very composedly stepped forward, *and shut them up in it,* by putting up the chain fastening of the door. At the same moment the two sentries were speared, while another Dacoit mounted upon the tumbril, and, with his axe, broke open one of its compartments. An alarm

was raised, and a sentinel at the quarters in the next compound, of the Officer commanding the Station, fired upon them. Captain Lewis's butler happened at this moment to pass by on his way from the kitchen, with a tray of edibles for his master. A blow was aimed at him with a spear, which missed, and passed between his legs, and he was sent headlong to the bungalow. It was now the Officers above mentioned became aware of the presence of a gang of robbers. They sallied out. One of them discharged his gun at the Dacoits, and, although loaded only with small shot, brought down one of them. In the mean time, the robbers had discovered that they had broken into the wrong compartment of the tumbril,—*the money had, indeed, only that day, by the merest chance, been removed into the other one!*—and as they were now in their turn attacked, "*and by saheb logue too,*" as the approver to this dacoity expressed it, they retreated, carrying off with them their wounded comrade. Immediately, bugles and drums were sounded, and the troops turned out. Videttes, and patrols of cavalry were sent out in all directions, and the Commanding Officer reported next day to the Commander in Chief, that his camp had been attacked by a *numerous and well-organised banditti,* and that he had made every disposition to repel their next attack, which was fully expected! In the morning, the wounded man was found and brought in, but he would disclose nothing. The whole of this gang has, within the last few years, come into the custody of this Department, whether in Hindoostan or of this Agency, and has been disposed of.

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## REMARKS ON DACOITIES Nos. 51 AND 52.

Dacoities at Barsee, in the Sholapore Zilla, by Bhat Dacoits.

There were two dacoities at Barsee, committed by Grassia Naik, with his gang of Bhat Dacoits, at an interval of fifteen years. Both were attended with the murder and wounding of several persons, for it is seldom that the Bhats or Sansiahs fail in perpetrating something of the kind; for when they escape, they do so in a body, and run a muck, spearing any one and every one who should happen to be in their way. The booty on both occasions was valuable.

It was Grassia who committed the dacoity at Sattara, for which Gênya Naik, Mhang Rukhwaldar, was hanged, as adverted to under No. 49. After a lapse of several years, he had appeared down there again, and was planning another robbery at Sattara; when, upon information sent down by the late Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm from Hyderabad (Deccan), he and his people were seized. I myself examined them at Hyderabad in 1847, when he was admitted as an approver.

He told me that he and his gang had, during the previous year, been seized somewhere in Central India, *charged with belonging to the bunder gang of Bombay, and with ship-burning there,* and he asked me what a ship was!

All the Dacoits engaged on the above two occasions have been disposed of by the Department. Grassia died of cholera, when deputed by me with an arresting party into the Nuggur districts.

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## REMARKS ON DACOITY. No. 53.

Dacoity in the City of Poona.

This was also the deed of Tumbolin's gang, led by Himtya, who, and another, got seized in the act. It was his last robbery. He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment with hard labour, while his companion was acquitted by having declared that he happened to be a poor labourer, who unfortunately had been passing by the scene of the dacoity, when he was knocked down by the Dacoits; and that when they made off he was seized by the Police, as if he had been one of their number. On the evening of this robbery, almost the whole of the City Police were in another part of the city, attending the procession of the marriage of the Foujdar. The booty the robbers carried off was a valuable one.

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## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 54.

Dacoity at Almilla, in the Sholapore Zilla, by Bhats.

The gang on this occasion was a small one, of only eight Bhat Dacoits, under another very enterprising leader, named Kunkia. He was the last that extended his depredations so low down in India. From Almilla (a town in the Sholapore Collectorate), he had ready access to the Shorapoor Bedur Province, in which, not far over the border, in a thick date-grove, he had his 'tandà,' or camp. On this occasion, one man of the house was killed, and five wounded.

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## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 55.

Dacoity at Sholapore, by Bhat Dacoits.

This dacoity was also the deed of Grassia Naik. It was committed, as usual, at nightfall, within the walled city of Sholapore, upon the house of a wealthy tobacconist. Three

men were murdered, and six wounded. The Dacoits escaped; but they have since been disposed of by the Department.

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## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 56.

Dacoity at Gokak, in the Belgaum Collectorate, by Bhat Dacoits.

This was Grassia's last feat previous to his arrest at Sattara, as alluded to under Nos. 51 and 52. The dacoity created a great sensation, and was attended by many serious consequences. It was upon the house of three old men, who were brothers, trading under the firm of the "Kurrulgee Sowkars." Five men were murdered, and five wounded by the Dacoits; and among the former was the elder of the three Sowkars, and a son of one of the others. The surviving brothers, upon this, charged the *son of their murdered brother* with the dacoity; for the youth had now become the heir to the estate, and as he had been always obnoxious to them, they declared that he had instigated the deed with the view to his inheriting the property. They had him seized, and his life was in jeopardy in consequence. This on the side of the plundered parties.

On the other hand, however, the Political and Magisterial Authorities, because among the murdered parties there happened to be a person of some consequence in the Southern Muratha Country (the Dessaee of Wuttoor), by whose death the succession to that dignity was diverted into another channel, supposed that the dacoity itself was merely a covert act by which his death had been compassed. The deed was therefore, on the side of the Authorities, put down to faction, springing from some alleged political feud.

The facts, however, of the case were, that the Dacoits had no concern whatever in the descent of the Wuttoor family on the one hand, or in the entail of the Kurrulgee estate on the other. Their encampment was far away in another direction, close to the Krishna; and they had but recently come down from the Oude Terraie, disguised as Guzerathee Dombārees, or showmen.

The Wuttoor Dessaee happened *by mere chance* to have arrived at Gokak that very evening. He put up, as did his attendants, at a travellers' shed on the other side of the street, opposite to the doomed house; and when the Naik, after he had at dusk collected his men at a preconcerted spot outside of the place (where they had previously buried their weapons), came into the town to buy oil for the torches, and, as was usual, to take the last look at the premises, he perceived that there were travellers at the shed adverted to, who might give trouble. He and his men had come several koss that day for the settled

purpose of committing this robbery, which had been planned fully a month previously, and, moreover, a bad omen, that day met with by the gang when it set out, had been discharmed and converted into a propitious one. The wife of one of the gang had died some days previously, and her obsequies had been carefully performed; but on the morning of its departure, after it had set out for the robbery, a dead body was seen. This boded evil; upon which one of the Dacoits promptly went up to it, and placed his stick against the face of the corpse, when it was declared they might proceed with the enterprise. The Naik was not therefore to be deterred. Arrived at the spot where his men had assembled, and, ready armed, were awaiting his coming, he told off each man to his appointed task, merely remarking to Hurree and three others, who were to post themselves in the street adverted to, that in the shed over the way they would find a man wearing a wide white turban, who, and his attendants, *should be seen to* if they stirred in the matter at all. The consequence was that the man and his companions were murdered outright.

As to the suspected nephew of the surviving Kurrulgee brothers, he was greatly incensed at the prosecution he was subjected to by his two uncles, during which he was in custody for six months! Had they succeeded in it, he would doubtless, as he remarked to me, *have been hanged;* so that when the real culprits were brought to justice by me, he in his turn preferred a charge against them, and against their witnesses, of false imprisonment and conspiracy, and both, with six others, were convicted, and sentenced to imprisonment, with hard labour, for various periods.

The gang escaped, although a party of Muratha Horse was posted at one of the gates of the town.

Seven of this gang were sentenced to life transportation, on committals from this Office, for this dacoity, and the rest have been disposed of by the Department elsewhere; but one of the approvers to the dacoity subsequently escaped from the custody of one of my arresting parties, when on duty in Khandeish.

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## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 57.

Dacoity at Meeruj, by Bhat Dacoits.

This was the deed of Grassia Naik, aforementioned. The booty was large, and the Dacoits escaped. They slew one man, and badly wounded three others.

He perpetrated a similar dacoity with a gang of twenty men at Ellichapoor, about the same time, in which seven men were murdered, and one wounded. The booty was Rs. 3,200.

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## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 58.

Dacoity at Dhoolia, in Khandeish, by Bhats.

This also was the deed of Grassia Naik, and was committed upon the public treasury, although under a guard of the line. The dacoits speared the sentinel, but were opposed by the guard, who shot one of them, and wounded another; so that they made off, carrying off their disabled comrades. None of them were arrested at the time.

A similar dacoity was committed by a gang of these adventurous robbers in the Cantonments of Bolarum, or Elwall, near Secunderabad, in February 1847, when they attacked the house of the Kuzzanchee or treasurer, where was a guard of the Nizam's regular infantry. Some of the sepoys were, as usual, murdered on their posts, and an immense booty was carried off in hard money, to the extent of about Rs. 19,000. This was the deed of Malchund Naik, a one-eyed man, now an approver in the Department. He and his men escaped at the time, as they have always done, except in rare instances, as at Poona (as mentioned under No. 53). The gang numbered twenty-one men.

A similar attack by Bhat Dacoits upon the public treasury took place at Oopwa Ellore, in the direction of Masulipatam, in the Madras Territory, in March 1838, under Kunkia Naik, with a gang of eleven men. The chest was in the charge of a Naique and six sepoys of the 27th Madras Native Infantry. The robbers escaped, after murdering two of the sepoys; but some suspected village people were seized for the robbery, and two of them *were tried, convicted, and transported for life.* On a representation from this Office, they were reprieved. One of them had, however, mean time died. At first, it was hard to believe on the part of the Authorities—to whom it was represented, through this Office, that the deed had in fact been that of some professional Dacoits from Upper India—*that so small a number of men as eleven* could ever dare to assault a guard of a Naique and six privates of the line!

A similar dacoity was committed in the Military Cantonments of Jaulnah, upon the treasure chest of the Military Paymaster. The sentries had just been posted, and the men of the guard, relieved from being under arms at sunset, were, as usual at that hour of the evening, sauntering about listlessly. A few were lying down in the tent, in front of which their arms were piled. The sentries were suddenly speared, and the whole of the muskets lifted up, and thrown into an opposite prickly-pear hedge. Some of the Dacoits, with spears, then immediately stood over those of the guard who were in the tent, while the chest was being broken open, from which cash to the extent of nearly Rs. 8,000 was plundered by the Dacoits. One of the Dacoits was carried off wounded. This was in 1828.

## KEMARKS ON DACOITY No. 59.

Dacoity at Nundgur, in the Belgaum Collectorate, by Bhats.

This was the deed of a very notorious Bhat or Sansiah leader, named Nawab, who, for a dacoity in the Madras Territories (at Bellary), was afterwards transported for life. Three men of the village were murdered, and one wounded, and a booty of Rs. 5,000 carried off.

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## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 60.

Dacoity at Nepanee, &c. in the Belgaum Zilla, by Bhats.

This was upon the bazar attached to the camp of the force under Sir Thomas Munro, on his return from the storm and capture of the fort of Sholapore. It was the deed of the gang belonging to the woman Tumbolin, in the life-time of her husband Chota Johurree, by whom it was conducted. The booty was to the extent of Rs. 7,000.

The same gang had before this committed a similar successful dacoity in the camp of the same Officer, when halted at Kulludghee, on which occasion they fired the bazar.

In 1818, when General Sir James Keir invested the fort of Rairee, near Vingorla, the same enterprising Dacoits attacked, with similar success, his bazar at that place; also the bazar of a reinforcement of troops from Madras, under Colonel Dowse, when halted in the Amboolie Pass, near Belgaum.

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## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 61.

Dacoity at Dhoonsee, in the Hooblee Talooka of the Dharwar Collectorate, by Bhats from Hindoostan.

This, too, was the deed of Nawab Naik. It was committed upon the goods of some travelling merchants, who had alighted for the night close to the chowree (village police station). Seven men were speared, and one murdered. The booty was about Rs. 1,100.

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## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 62.

Dacoity at Bagulkote, in the Belgaum Collectorate, by a joint Gang of Bhats and Lumbanees.

This was committed upon the premises of a very thriving firm of Native bankers, in June 1845, and was the deed of Kunkia Naik, before alluded to, who, as he was short of hands, was assisted on this occasion by a quota of *Lumbanees* from Talikote. The booty, consisting of gold twists, &c. was to the extent of Rs. 9,000. The old Sowkar (Juggonath-

dass) was murdered, as also was his young grandson and heir, and another man outside of the house; and four men were wounded. The information regarding the premises was, on this occasion, obtained by the Naik Kunkia, by his taking a few rupees of some other currency early one morning to the old shroff, and asking him at what discount per rupee he would exchange the same for Bagulkote currency. The shroff offered less for them than the Dacoit pretended was enough, and he purposely set up an altercation with the old man, who haggled for a bargain of about an anna per rupee less than the Naik said he wanted. At length the robber pretended to be satisfied; upon which the old man went into one of the rooms of the veranda, and brought out a bag of money. The Dacoit knew from this that that room was the depository of the man's wealth. This is the usual way according to which Bhat Dacoits obtain their information of the premises they wish to attack. At the time of the dacoity, the old man stood up against the door of that room, to prevent the robbers from breaking into it, and he was murdered in consequence, and his grandson also. Two of this gang were, on a committal from this Office for this and the subsequent dacoity at Gudduk, hanged at Dharwar. They were both very desperate characters, and had never engaged in a dacoity without committing murder. One of them was the man who mercilessly killed the young lad as above.

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## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 63.

Dacoity at Gudduk, in the Dharwar Collectorate, by Bhats and Lumbanees.

This was the last dacoity that was committed by Bhats in Southern India, or rather within the jurisdiction of this Agency. It also was the deed of Kunkia Naik, joined by some Lumbanees, as before at Bagulkote. It created a great stir, and Sir George Clerk, at that time Governor of Bombay, was very severe upon the District Authorities in his remarks respecting it. People were seized for it in all directions, and among them *a large number of Kulkorwee dacoits*,* who, however, were not concerned in this robbery. The Dacoits murdered three men, and wounded two others. Their booty, however, was small. My duties had then but lately been extended to the suppression of dacoity. Fortunately, I obtained a clue to the perpetrators, and acted upon it at once; and in the neighbourhood of Talikote,† to which I proceeded from Belgaum by express with a party of Nujjeebs, we seized the whole gang, with a portion of the booty, and it was then I discovered who were the delinquents in the Bagulkote and other previous

* At that time unknown to be professional Dacoits.

† Distant about a hundred and fifty miles, and near Shorapoor Bedur.

serious dacoities, for Kunkia saw that it was all over with him, and so offered to turn approver. The plundered party had, however, declared to the District Authorities *that he had not been robbed of anything;* for he was a pawnbroker to a large extent, and feared that a general demand might be made upon him for goods that had been pledged to him. Hearing, however, that even the stolen property was in my possession, he consulted a reverend German missionary, located near Gudduk, and, by his advice, admitted his former falsehood. But for this, the prosecution might have failed; and as it was, I did not succeed in prosecuting to conviction the Lumbanee portion of the gang, but only the Bhats, and a receiver of some of the plunder. Kunkia I admitted as an approver; two of his gang were, as I have said, hanged. The Bhats now ceased from extending their excursions to this part of India; at any rate they have not committed any dacoity since the above event, in any portion of the circle of the superintendence of this Agency.

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## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 64.

Dacoity at Kêlee Mahim, close to Bombay, by Kaikarees.

The Dacoits tried all their might to break through the door of the house, but it resisted their efforts; whereupon some of them climbed up to a window high up in the wall, through which they got down into the house, but perceived that, even then, there was no way of getting to the inhabited part, where, in an upper story, they knew all the property to be deposited; so that as the alarm, too, happened to have been taken up in the village, they were obliged to decamp, without any booty. No one was seized.

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees ..... | 10 |
| Approvers under sentence of life transportation..... | 4 |
| Transported for life ..... | 3 |
| Deceased ..... | 2 |
| At large..... | 1 |
| Total.... | 10 |

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## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 65.

Dacoity at Ugsee, in the Goa Territory, by a Rutnagherry Gang.

The road to the village where this dacoity was committed was obstructed by a creek. This the robbers crossed during the day in a ferry-boat. At night, they went up to the house, posted the watches, lighted their torches,

and, with hatchets, broke into it, but they got a booty to the value of only Rs. 30. The owner of the house, and also one of the Dacoits, were wounded in this robbery. All escaped; but, owing to the creek, they took the road to Goa, and escaped round by it.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 8 |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation | 1 |
| At large | 5 |
| Deceased | 2 |
| Total | 8 |

## REMARKS ON DACOITY No. 66.

Dacoity at Mungolee, on a Camp.

This was a robbery in the camp of some regular troops marching to Sholapore from Bellary. The Dacoits were discovered by one of the sentinels, and so obtained but a small booty.

When the consequent hubbub ceased, and all had become again hushed, the Dacoits a second time stole into the camp, at another point, where they belaboured with clubs some men who would have given the alarm, and carried off a saddle-bag. As they were making off with it, they were obstructed by falling in the dark upon some other men lying asleep, by whom they were at once opposed, but the Dacoits lifted whatever they could lay hands on, cut down one of their opponents, and made off. Their booty amounted in value to Rs. 125.

Robberies of this nature used to be of frequent occurrence in the camps of troops, while marching through the Sholapore Zilla; *and on one occasion the Commanding Officer's flag was carried off by the Dacoits!*

| | |
|---|---|
| Strength of the gang, Kaikarees | 9 |
| Approver under sentence of life transportation | 1 |
| Deceased | 3 |
| Transported for life | 3 |
| At large | 2 |
| Total | 9 |

(Signed) C. Hervey, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

*Assistant General Superintendent's Office,*
*Coorla, 1st April* 1856.

* These Dacoits have often depredated in the Goa territory, as at Mhopsa, Rye Bunder, Panjim, &c.

# CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO ACT No. XXIX. OF 1850.

No. 2060 of 1856.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

To the REGISTRAR OF THE SUDDER FOUJDAREE ADAWLUT.

SIR,—In transmitting to you extract paragraphs 24 to 28 of the Annual Report of the Assistant General Superintendent of the Operations for the Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity, with the Appendix A therein referred to, I am desired by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to request that the Judges of the Sudder Adawlut will be good enough to favour Government with their opinion as to whether any alteration of the law is necessary to enable the executive effectually to deal with the crime of Bhar swindling.

I am also instructed to forward paragraphs 34 to 37 of the Report, and to request that the Judges will favour Government with their opinion on the question raised by Captain Hervey as to the propriety of converting Act XXIX. of 1850 into a general Act.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Secretary to Government.

*Bombay Castle, 17th June* 1856.

No. 2061 of 1856.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

To the COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

SIR,—In transmitting to you extract paragraphs 34 to 37 of the Annual Report of the Assistant General Superintendent of the Operations for the Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity, I am desired by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to request that you will be good enough to favour

Government with your opinion on the question raised by Captain Hervey as to the propriety of converting Act XXIX. of 1850 into a general Act.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Secretary to Government.

*Bombay Castle, 17th June* 1856.

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No. 855 OF 1856.

From the COMMISSIONER OF POLICE,

To the JUDICIAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Bombay.

SIR,—In reply to your letter No. 2061, of the 17th instant, I have the honour to state, that it is reasonable to suppose only a very small proportion of cases of poisoning by datura are reported.

2. In at least nine cases out of ten, the traveller must be out of reach of medical aid, as in ordinary thuggee a secluded spot would be selected, and care taken to escape notice. The symptoms presented to the ordinary observer would, I believe, be attributed to *coup de soleil*.

3. Inquiries which I have caused to be made in some cases of this description have had no result, beyond leaving on my mind a strong suspicion that *coup de soleil* often means datura.

4. Captain Hervey reports forty cases, death occurring in nine instances. In six cases ten persons were punished. I beg particularly to draw the notice of Government to the fact that in all the cases attended with death the culprits escaped; in the cases of conviction, the inadequate sentences awarded for this atrocious crime cannot fail to attract the notice of Government. With such results, it is clear that the law at present is inoperative. I entirely concur in the opinion submitted to Government that Act XXIX. of 1850 should be made a general Act. Its present limitation under Section II. of Act XXXI. of 1838 prevents its operation in the Mofussil, where it is most needed. The crime is one which demands the most stringent measures, and severest punishment, for its suppression.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) A. BETTINGTON,
Commissioner of Police.

*Sattara, 19th June* 1856.

Its effectual suppression demands the agency of the Thuggee Department, and the aid of approvers.

(Signed) A. BETTINGTON,
Commissioner.

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No. 2212 OF 1856.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

To the REGISTRAR OF THE SUDDER FOUJDAREE ADAWLUT.

SIR,—In continuation of my letter of the 17th instant, No. 2060, I am desired to forward, for the consideration of the Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut, an original letter from the Commissioner of Police, reporting on the question raised by Captain Hervey as to the propriety of converting Act XXIX. of 1850 into a general Act.

2. You are requested to return the letter herewith sent with your reply.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Secretary to Government.

*Bombay Castle, 25th June* 1856.

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No. 1663 OF 1856.

To H. L. ANDERSON, Esq.,
Secretary to Government, Judicial Department.

SIR,—I have the honour, by direction of the Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2060, dated 17th ultimo, forwarding, for the opinion of the Court, extracts from the Annual Report of the Assistant General Superintendent of the Operations for the Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity, suggesting an alteration in the law, to enable the executive effectually to deal with the crime of Bhar swindling, and the propriety of converting Act XXIX. of 1850 into a general Act.

*Present,*—W. E. Frere, W. H. Harrison, and R. Keays, Esquires.

2. In reply, I am directed to state that Captain Hervey's letter of the 22nd January last (Appendix A) leads the Court to the belief that what he would advocate is, not a new Act to meet cases of obtaining property under fraudulent pretences, so much as some modification of the law of evidence, by which

more weight might be attached to the depositions of approvers. If that be the case, the Court, I am desired to state, are not prepared to support it, nor do they think any alteration in the law necessary.

3. Captain Hervey mentions three cases of swindling by Bhar,—one of a rich, covetous Sowkar, whose name he does not mention; the other that of Gopalla Malee at Poona; and the third the Mhopsa case. It appears to the Court that, in all of these, the complainant and injured man had lent himself to what he must have known was wrong: they all went to obtain hidden treasure; and much though one might pity their weakness, and heavy though the punishment has been, it is impossible to say that they did not bring it upon themselves.

4. Cases, however, of this kind, appear to the Court to be really cases of conspiracy; they are offences which a man cannot carry out single-handed, and there ought not to be much difficulty in proving them, if the dupes would but come forward. This, however, Captain Hervey says they will not do; and if they do not, the Court are not prepared to give to approvers' evidence and confessions more weight than they do now, to screen the victims of the conspiracy from exposing their own folly. The punishment, too, for conspiracy (ten years' imprisonment), is, the Judges think, quite heavy enough for any of these cases.

5. As regards that branch of Captain Hervey's Report which refers to passing the Chowkoonee Rupees, of which the Court lately had a case* before them from Poona, the sufferers are probably more to be pitied, and the Court would be very glad to see the want (which they have long regretted) in our Criminal Code supplied, of an Act to punish cheating, and obtaining property by false pretences.

6. The Court are of opinion that nothing would be gained by a law making the coining money other than the current coin penal, for people would then cheat with false jewellery, as they now do with false coins.

7. Having thus given their opinion against the proposal generally, the Court desire me to add that they cannot see what object Captain Hervey expects to gain by converting Act XXIX. of 1850 into a general Act; for it appears to them, that as far as the Datura Thugs, as the Assistant General Superintendent calls them, are concerned, ten out of fifty people taken up on suspicion have been punished in the Mofussil, while of eleven taken up for the same offence in Bombay under Act XXIX. not one was convicted; and, upon looking at the Criminal Report for last year, the Court see that out of six people taken up for thefts by administering poisonous drugs, four were convicted and two

* Page 547 of Morris's Reports for April last.

acquitted in the Mofussil, which is a much larger proportion than Captain Hervey shows. It is true that the punishment under Act XXIX. may be transportation, but, unless the offence became much more general than Captain Hervey shows it to be, the Court do not think he would ever find a convict transported unless death was the result of the poisoning, and then the case would most probably be treated as murder.

8. Since the receipt of the Court's orders to communicate to you the foregoing remarks, I have laid before the Judges your letter No. 2212, dated 25th ultimo, forwarding for their consideration an original letter from the Commissioner of Police, reporting on the question raised by Captain Hervey regarding Act XXIX. of 1850. In returning, as desired, this communication, the Judges direct me to say that they can find nothing in Mr. Bettington's remarks to make them alter the opinion which I have above submitted. Mr. Bettington complains that none of the more serious cases have been proved, and that in those cases in which there were convictions, the punishment was inadequate. But this, the Judges need hardly say, is not the fault of the law, but either of the Police for not procuring sufficient evidence, or of the Magistrates and Session Judges for not convicting when they have a case proved before them, and, when they do convict, for not giving sufficient punishment. Making Act XXIX. of 1850 general will not, therefore, remedy this.

9. Mr. Bettington advocates the extension of the Act to the Mofussil, because the crime is one that demands stringent measures, and the severest punishment, for its suppression. Here the Court desire me to state that the Act merely declares that persons administering poison with intent to do harm, &c. may be transported, and that four years' imprisonment is the minimum punishment; and if they be charged with having administered poison with intent to murder, and it amount only to an intent to harm, they may be punished; but it provides no stringent measure for the suppression of the crime, nor more severe punishment except transportation, than might be inflicted under the present law; and if the virtue of the Act may be judged from the result of committals at the Presidency, as noticed above, the law is inoperative, no conviction ever having been obtained here.

10. The Agency of the Thuggee Department and approvers may greatly assist the Police, as suggested by Mr. Bettington; but the Court cannot say that they have found these agents of much assistance towards arriving at convictions.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) M. A. Coxon,
Registrar.

*Bombay, Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut,* 16*th July* 1856.

No. 2176 of 1857.

Judicial Department.

To Captain C. Hervey,
Assistant General Superintendent of the Operations for the Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity.

Sir,—Your suggestion as to the propriety of converting Act XXIX. of 1850 into a general Act, and of altering the law to enable the executive effectually to deal with the crime of Bhar swindling, having, as already intimated to you, been referred to the Commissioner of Police, and Judges of the Sudder Adawlut, I am desired to forward to you copies of their replies (Registrar of the Sudder Adawlut, dated 16th July 1856, No. 1663; Commissioner of Police, dated 19th June 1856, No. 855), for any remarks which you may wish to offer on them.

2. The disposal of these letters has, I am desired to add, been deferred, owing, first, to your absence on furlough to Europe, and subsequently with the Field Service in Persia, as His Lordship in Council was desirous of being favoured with your remarks previous to disposing of the subject.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) H. L. Anderson,
Secretary to Government.

*Bombay Castle, 2nd July* 1857.

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No. 90 of 1857.

Thuggee and Dacoity Department.

From Captain C. Hervey,
Assistant General Superintendent,

To H. L. Anderson, Esq.,
Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Bombay.

*Dated Belgaum, 22nd September* 1857.

Sir,—I have the honour, with reference to paragraph 2 of your letter under date 19th ultimo, No. 2817, to reply to your former letter, dated 2nd July last, No. 2176, relating to the crimes called Datura Thuggee and Bhar Robbery.

2. The inquiry having arisen from my statements regarding those crimes in my Annual Report for 1855 (No. 61, dated 1st April 1856), and as, with respect to that of Datura Thuggee, or *robbery by administering poison*, I adverted in paragraph 34 of that Report* to what I said had in another General Report been advocated by me as to the propriety of converting Act XXIX. of 1850 into a general Act, I may be permitted, as the question would seem to be about to be reconsidered, to lay before Government the whole of my remarks upon it, as contained in that General Report (**A** in Appendix). I therefore venture to submit, accordingly, the extracts from it noted in the margin, presenting, as they do, a full review of all that had hitherto been said on the subject. These remarks will, I hope, be found to meet, in a great measure, the objections of the Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut, as conveyed in the letter to your address from their Registrar, No. 1663, dated 16th July 1856, of which you furnished me with a copy.

Datura Thuggee, or the Crime of Robbery by administering deleterious Drugs.

Extract paragraphs 14 and 15, and paragraphs 42 to 52, from a General Report from Captain C. Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent, to the General Superintendent, No. 14, dated 22nd January 1856. (See **A** in Appendix.)

3. I represented in my Annual Report for 1855, paragraph 37,† that the special Act XXIX. of 1850 barely met—that indeed it did *not* meet—the crime, even in the jurisdiction to which its provisions were limited, viz. the circles of of Her Majesty's Courts of Justice in India; and, quite in concurrence with that opinion, the Judges have stated, in their Registrar's letter, that "if the virtue of the said Act was to be judged from the results of committals to the Supreme Court at Bombay, the law was inoperative."

4. This, then, would present prominently for consideration, the cause to which such results are to be attributed; and it may be found to lie, in conjunction with all that has been advanced by me in respect to the nature of this crime in the documents now forwarded, in the very fact, I most respectfully submit, pointed at by the Judges themselves in paragraph 8 of the Registrar's letter, namely, in their words, that "the Police did not procure sufficient evidence."

5. The Judges would urge that the law for the suppression of poisoners, as obtaining in the Mofussil, would not be at fault, "if sufficient evidence were brought up by the Police, and if Magistrates and Session Judges convicted and sufficiently punished the culprits." It is almost admitted by them, by the context, that such are not the results generally of any proceedings, according to the present law, against criminals of this particular class; while it has been my endeavour to show, throughout my reports regarding them, that such results, except in extraordinary instances, are not indeed attainable.

6. The Commissioner of Police has, in his letter to Government No. 855,

* Vide page 27. † Vide page 28.

dated 19th June 1856, a copy of which was furnished to me with your letter under reply, correctly summed up, from the substance of my Report to you No. 61 of 1856, that from forty cases of the crime, death ensued in nine instances, and that in six of the cases ten persons were punished; and he particularly begged Government to notice the fact, *that in none of the cases in which death ensued were any culprits punished;* and that in those cases where conviction was arrived at, the sentences were inadequate. He added, that it was clear that the law, as it at present stood, was inoperative; and he entirely concurred in the opinion submitted by me, that Act XXIX. of 1850 should be converted into a general Act. This *resumé* of my Report may be considered to contrast favourably with that presented in paragraph 7 of the Registrar's letter already referred to.*

7. I do not perceive, then, that I can add anything more to advance what I have so often advocated for the easier suppression of the crime. The subject is almost exhausted; and I have but little further to offer in support of the cause,—a cause, obviously, of simplicity against craft; of security, and life itself, against certain robbery and probable destruction.

8. In former reports I have illustrated the necessity of the measure I suggest: the suggestion has not been adopted—the evil remains comparatively unchecked; and thus furnishes me with another painful instance of the want of some special legislation, to crush if possible, or at least to curb, the growth of this heinous crime.

9. On the 19th of February last, the dead bodies of two boys, aged six and ten years, were discovered in a tank near the village of Paneeguttee, in the Bunkapoor Talooka (Dharwar); and lying near the spot were found four other human forms, senseless, but still breathing; namely a man and three women, one of whom was the mother of the two deceased lads. Restoratives having been applied, sensation and memory slowly returned, and the victims thus rescued from death were able, by degrees, to recall the circumstances that had proved fatal to the children, and well-nigh hurried themselves also to eternity. They had been to a fair at Hoolgoor, decked out, we may conclude, in their family trinkets and holiday garb, and, while there, they were accosted by three Mussulmans, perfect strangers, who ingratiated themselves so much into their confidence, by their praises of the boys, and pleasing ways, that they escorted them through the fair, and even invited them to dine with them at the neighbouring village. Whatever the females may have thought of their offer to them of money (as stated in the report), certain it is that the whole of the party were simple enough to accept the invitation, without any suspicion of their intentions.

Crime Report from the Superintendent of Police of Dharwar, No. 7 of 1857.

* Vide page 110.

They all partook of the little feast prepared for them by the gallants—some rice and curry. The rest was but a dream; for, deposed the survivors, they shortly afterwards became insensible. The Police Superintendent reported that, on a full inquiry, it was found *they had been drugged.* The murdered children had also partaken of the drugged meal. Of the ornaments on their persons, and other property, not a trace remained. The robber-assassins escaped; they have not yet been detected.

10. It may, however, still be argued, that poisoning is rare in the districts of this Presidency. But I have often represented to Government, what I would still humbly do, that the apparent infrequency of the offence is not a test of its limited extent; *that it is committed oftener than is reported.* I do not here enter into the reasons; they are shown in the accompanying documents. It should seem not unreasonable to infer, from the circumstances of the case just brought to notice, that the perpetrators of it were adepts in this villanous profession: Was this the only instance of the commission by them of the offence? Was each instance detailed in the documents, herewith presented, but a solitary and incidental case, under strong temptations for its commission,—by, in fact, but unpractised people? Was the individual who drugged the two men near Malwan, and so murdered one and robbed both, in the case quoted at page 42 of Vol. I. of the Selections from the Records of Government in the Police Branch of the Judicial Department, but a raw hand, thitherto unsteeped in similar villany? May men so stealthy in their ways, apparently so frank in their manner, and yet so intent upon their purpose, so sure in administering the poisons, be regarded as mere novices at the crime, rather than as confirmed offenders? Such a conclusion is opposed to all reason and experience: not only does each case display the dexterity and artfulness of the *friend* by whom the victims were beguiled, but is stamped with indications of practised knavery; while each lamentably presents the real simplicity of the deluded parties—the horror and terror of the survivors on discovering how they had been victimised, how nearly they had died.

11. Presenting the importance of the question in such a form for the consideration of Government, I can more confidently affirm that the diffusion of the crime has remained undiscovered even where its practice has been known. In an incomplete tabular statement received in this Office from the Commissioner of Police, it is gathered that but six cases of the offence took place in the Tanna Collectorate in 1850 and 1851, whereas twenty cases were reported by me; and while but one instance is shown in it to have occurred in the Belgaum Collectorate during the preceding twenty-eight years (1824 to 1851), I have presented to Government, in a former Report, how twenty-four cases,* of occurrence but during the last three or four

* Vide in the Appendix, page 124, paragraph 25.

years of that period,* had been investigated by me as the deed of but a single gang of poisoners, *of which only five instances were known to the Police, or had been reported;* and while the tabular statement exhibits a blank return for thirty-two years in the Ahmednuggur Collectorate, which, in the absence of any mention of the Nassick portion thereof, includes, we may suppose, the return for that Sub-Collectorate, my reports show an instance within it in 1850-51, one case in 1852, three in 1853, three in 1854, and nine in 1855; while the extracts in the Appendix from the criminal reports from the Superintendent of Police of Nassick give the details of two distressing instances out of those included for the years 1853 and 1854.† The returns for the other districts display, it would seem, similar inaccuracies, as may be viewed below. Yet these discrepancies may after all, in the opinion of some, present but very insignificant data upon which to found, it may be said, a proposal for the alteration of the existing law! We do not, however, know the real extent of these dark misdeeds; and I firmly believe, that if a scrutiny were made, in each Zilla, of the number of the instances known to have taken place, even if it were very difficult to ascertain how often the crime was really committed, there would be disclosed a wonderful disparity between what notoriously occurred, and what was made known to the local Authorities.

| Collectorate. | According to the Tabular Statement, Total Number of Cases of Poisoning from 1824 to 1856, *or during Thirty-two Years.* | According to Captain Hervey's inquiries, Total Number from 1850 to 1855, *or during Six Years.* |
|---|---|---|
| Tanna | 24 | 34 |
| Angria's Colaba | No return made | 4 |
| Poona | Ditto | 15 |
| Ahmednuggur (and Nassick) | Nil | 17 |
| Khandeish | No return made | 14 |
| Rutnagherry | Ditto | 2 |
| Belgaum | 3 | 9 |
| Jagheer States, Southern Muratha Country | No return made | 2 |
| Dharwar | Ditto | 16 |
| Sholapore | 2 | 8 |
| Akulkote | No return made | 3 |
| Ahmedabad | Ditto | No inquiry made. |
| Surat | 2 | 6 |
| Kaira | Nil | No inquiry made. |
| Broach | No return received | Ditto. |
| Kolapore | Ditto | 2 " |
| Sawunt Waree | Ditto | 3 |

* Of these, 14 occurred in the Belgaum Collectorate; 2 in the Dharwar Collectorate; 7 in the Jagheer States; and 1 in the Canara Districts; making a total of 24.

† Vide pages 127 and 128.

12. In conclusion of this subject, I have now only to submit that my object for proposing that the territorial scope of Act XXIX. of 1850 should be extended to the whole of India was, as stated to Mr. Secretary Erskine in my letter on the subject No. 56, under date 24th April 1854 (copy submitted in the Appendix, and marked **B**), and again noticed in paragraph 52 of my General Report,* that the operations of this Agency, if extended to the particular class of criminals aimed at by that Act, might be very much facilitated,—that, in fact, *the Department* might be enabled to take up proceedings against them with a prospect of success. For, as the Act provides a sentence of transportation for life, approvers could, under such a sentence, be admitted with some certainty of that trustworthy and steady evidence being elicited from them, that is not otherwise to be attained from an approver, who, under any limited sentence, has the prospect before him of liberation on its completion. And further, that the most of the culprits convicted on a charge under that Act might accordingly *be rendered impotent for future mischief*—a provision not compassed by the ordinary Mofussil law. Thus, as also advocated by the Commissioner of Police in his letter to your address No. 855, under date 19th June 1856, "the effectual suppression of the crime would be secured by the Agency of the Thuggee Department with the aid of approvers." For although the Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut have, in reply to that suggestion on the part of the Commissioner of Police, been pleased to observe that "they could not say that they had found those Agents of much assistance in arriving at convictions," it is certain that through their exertions, and by their testimony, convictions have nevertheless been largely attained, and crimes of great magnitude put down, which unhappily, under other agency, and the operation of the ordinary laws, with their rigid requirements in point of testimony, a great suffering community could not before be freed from.

Object for proposing an amendment in the Laws against Professional Poisoners.

13. I have now to report upon the remaining subject of your letter,—an alteration in the law to enable the executive to deal effectually with the crime of bhar robbery.

Bhar Robbers.

14. The Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut have on this subject, in their Registrar's letter to your address, No. 1663, dated 16th July 1856, paragraph 2, correctly concluded that my aim was not so much to obtain a new law to meet cases of this kind, as some modification of the law of evidence, *by which more weight might be attached to the testimony of accomplices.*

15. In the extracts from my General Report to Major Sleeman, upon which the Judges founded this observation, I suggested, under paragraph 37,† whether this particular class of criminals should not be recognised under the

* Vide post in Appendix A, at page 133.

† Vide page 41.

provisions of Act XI. of 1848, according to which "more weight might be attached to the evidence of accomplices, than which, in such confederacies, there was seldom any better to be obtained"; aware, I stated, as these cautious swindlers were, "what in our Courts of law would, under ordinary circumstances, be sufficient for their conviction; the greatest drawback to any general combination for their suppression being the extreme reluctance with which the duped parties come forward with their evidence against the delinquents."

16. Mr. J. D. Inverarity, when Political Agent for the Southern Muratha Country, in his letter to Government on this subject, as quoted in my Report to the General Superintendent, could not, with the Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut, look upon the deeds of a people so systematically employed, as these robbers were shown to be, as comprehended under any denomination of simple robbery. He submitted that "if systematic and professional robbery was dacoity, their acts constituted cases of dacoity, accomplished, not by violence, but by deception and address."

Mr. Inverarity, Political Agent Southern Muratha Country, to Mr. Secretary Anderson, No. 213, dated 28th August 1854, paragraph 3.

17. And as, in accordance with the subsequent commands of the Judges, the cases of a large gang of these impostors were tried on charges of *conspiracy*, the trying authority, Mr. A. Jones, Session Judge of Dharwar, in his finding on one of the cases so committed to his Court,* remarked, that, in the case before him, *as in the others*, the Vakeel contended "that the charge would not stand against the prisoners, as, allowing the facts to be proved, they constituted a robbery, and not a conspiracy." Mr. Jones added his opinion that, as the law stood at present, conspiracy was, however, the proper charge: "at the same time, the Session Judge cannot but record his opinion also, that it appears to him it would be far better that an Act should be passed, providing for the punishment of acts of fraud or swindling, such as the prisoners are now charged with, which are neither exactly breaches of trust, nor yet robberies."

18. Upon the whole, however, my own opinion is founded on the fact that, although in practice they are both systematic and professional, the people under inquiry are not hereditary robbers, that when the necessary amount of technical evidence can be adduced to prove any specific instance of the crime, they should be tried under the ordinary law; but that when there is not that evidence, they should be tried under Act XI. of 1848, *aided, however, in either case, by the testimony of accomplices,* which I have shown to be indispensable in such cases; the admission whereof should be regulated by

Proposed plan for dealing against Bhar Robbers.

* Case No. 101 of the Dharwar Calendar for 1855. (Vide Morris's Reports, Vol. VII. pages 88 to 92.)

some special new law, and not guided simply by the rules that determine what evidence is receivable in the Regular Courts; rules which, as has elsewhere been appropriately remarked,* "exclude much information, that would be quite sufficient to determine the conduct of any reasonable man, and which at every Sessions save scores of men firmly believed to be guilty."

19. By the above, I point only to the *Regulation* which, in the ordinary course of criminal law, as obtaining under this Presidency, is not only opposed to the admission of the evidence of an accomplice, but in practice positively prohibits it; as, for instance, in the cases of the numerous Dacoits tried at the Dharwar Sessions in 1851 and 1852, on committals from this Office, the whole of whom were, upon the evidence of approvers, found guilty by the Session Judge, and sentenced to transportation for life. The convictions and sentences in those cases were annulled by the Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut, and the prisoners liberated. But on their being retried, upon the same evidence, in a Non-Regulation Court, and being again found guilty and similarly sentenced, both sentences and convictions were confirmed by Government.

20. The defect, if I may be permitted so to term it, in the Regulation that I have adverted to, has, in some measure, been repaired by Clauses XXVIII. and XXXI. of Act II. of 1855, entituled "An Act for the further Improvement of the Law of Evidence." But as, with reference to the requirements of this Department in its operations against all such extraordinary criminals as those who form the subject of the present inquiry, some further alteration is needed, by which the evidence we are able to adduce may be accepted in Mofussil Adawluts, and thereby be avoided the necessity that now exists for committing our cases exclusively to Non-Regulation Courts, I may, in quoting below the observations of a learned Judge (Mr. Justice Coleridge) on the subject of the evidence of an accomplice, solicit, as I respectfully do, the attention of Government to a former letter from me on this subject to Mr. Secretary Erskine, No. 54, dated 22nd April 1854, a copy of which I annex,† when it was contemplated to repeal Clause 2nd, Section XXXV. Regulation XII. of 1827 of the Bombay Code, as furnishing, perhaps, for consideration, some new feature in any deliberations consequent upon the proposal to the Legislative Council of India, to amend the law of evidence as to the testimony of accomplices, as announced in a Resolution of Government, No. 3567, dated 14th October 1850; the principle having been laid down and recognised in successive instances,‡ that in the absence of any positive rule of law on the subject, a conviction may be arrived at upon the evidence of *an accomplice*

Regulation XII. of 1827, Section XXXV. Clause 2nd.

* Macauley. † Vide page 141.

‡ Per Lord Denman, in the Queen *vs.* Hastings, and other authorities quoted in "Taylor on Evidence," page 778, S.S.

*alone,* even in a capital case, *without any confirmation of his statement,* when recourse to such evidence becomes essential, from the necessity of bringing great offenders to justice,—even although accomplices be stigmatised as "usually interested, and always infamous witnesses":—

In the case of the Queen *vs.* Andrews: "The necessity for the confirmation of an accomplice has been stated too strongly in some cases." "It appears to me that even the testimony of an accomplice, though entirely unconfirmed, must go to the jury, accompanied, of course, by such recommendations as the Judge in such cases would feel it his duty to make." "If a witness be admissible at once, I have no right to withdraw his testimony from the consideration of the jury, and the law having admitted the evidence of an accomplice, it is the province of the jury to determine its value."

21. To return, however, to the subject that has led to the preceding observations, namely, the difficulty in disposing of cases of robbery by bhar. The Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut have, in the Registrar's letter, paragraph 4,* reiterated their opinion, that such cases can be tried only as cases of *conspiracy;* they are not disposed to support any modification of the law as advocated by me, by which greater weight might be given to the evidence of accomplices, because, they observe, "there ought not to be much difficulty in proving the offences, if the dupes would come forward"; which, if they abstained from doing, the Judges, on the ground that the injured parties had lent themselves to what they knew was wrong,—had brought upon themselves, by their own act, the losses they had sustained,—were not prepared to extend the aid sought by me for ensuring the punishment of the delinquents,—"to screen thereby their victims from exposing their own folly." To this I would observe, and with perfect deference, that as it is the practice, on the occasion of any great public offence, to prosecute the criminals on the part and in the name of the State, in the absence even of complainants, it would, for the sake of the protection equally of every one against an acknowledged evil, manifestly be but a public duty, in cases like the present, even although it might involve restitution and justice to but persons who may themselves have been blameable in the transactions out of which arose the wrong, to provide nevertheless for the punishment of the wrong-doers. The folly of the conscience-stricken victims, their backwardness or fear of blame, may as well at once be accepted as an expiation of the sin of the despoilers, as become their safeguard against its consequences, if they are neither to be restrained nor yet punished. The aged High Priest and Judge could ill have defended himself against the displeasure he incurred, on any plea that no complaints had been preferred by the sufferers from his sons' notorious misdeeds.

* Vide page 110.—The Judges had already, it will have been perceived (p. 118, para. 17), previously ordered several cases to be tried as *conspiracy.*

22. The subject of money-coiners having also elicited some observations in connection with the inquiry as to the bhar robbers, I am led, by the remark of the Judges in paragraph 6 of the Registrar's letter, "that nothing would be gained by a law making the coining of money other than the current coin penal, because men would then cheat with false jewellery, as they now do with false coins," to bring to notice, that among bhar robbers it is often a practice to effect the *bhar* or swindle with false money, as with false jewellery; and consequently, that if these people may be proceeded against according to the method I have advocated, the nature of the charge against them for the swindle would not be affected by the *currency* of any coin by which they may have accomplished it,—for how they obtained the false coin, whether they made it or not, would not necessarily be investigated.

Base Money-Coiners.

23. With reference, however, to proceedings against those people who both coin false money and pass it off, and regarding whose habits I have occasionally had the honour to address Government, I think some measures should be adopted, making it penal *to coin*, whatever the currency, if we would save ourselves from an imputation that such practices are in a manner licensed by ourselves, from a want of some more stringent rules for their repression. I therefore venture to place before Government in the Appendix (marked **C**) what I brought to the notice of the General Superintendent on this subject in my General Report before alluded to; in illustration of my remarks in which, as to the prevalence of this crime throughout the empire, I may, in conclusion, represent, that while at home, I noticed, in an early number of the London *Times* for November 1856, a paragraph, purporting to be information transmitted to St. Petersburgh by a Foreign Minister at the Court of Teheran, to the effect that a large quantity of false foreign money had then recently been conveyed beyond the frontier, coined in India, by the agents, I believe it was stated, of the East India Company! and, moreover, that lately, when I was on service in Persia, a proclamation was issued from Teheran, arising perhaps from some false Persian money having been passed off by some of our camp followers, who were probably coiners, warning all Persian subjects of what they received from us, as that we could well pretend to pay so handsomely for all we obtained from the country, by making the payment in counterfeit monies; of which, the proclamation declared, several specimens from our camp had reached His Majesty the Shah!

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. Hervey, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

*Assistant General Superintendent's Office, Belgaum, 22nd September* 1857.

# APPENDIX.

## A.

*Extracts Paragraphs* 14 *and* 15, *and Paragraphs* 42 *to* 52, *from a GENERAL REPORT by Captain HERVEY, Assistant General Superintendent for the Bombay Territories, to the address of the General Superintendent of the Operations for the Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity, No.* 14, *dated* 22*nd January* 1856.

Thuggee by means of Poisons.

Para. 14. The crime of Thuggee by administering deleterious drugs requires, however, to be more certainly noticed. It has been appropriately called "a species of Thuggee," being known in the Department as 'Datura Thuggee,' in Western India as 'Mawa'; and as it is often practised under this Presidency, it may not be out of place to make the following quotations from my Reports on the subject:—

Captain Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Judicial Department, No. 52, dated 26th March 1852, paragraphs 19 to 27.

"19, I have now to advert to the inquiry into the crime of poisoning for the purposes of robbery. My attention was led to this subject so far back as 1847, when some persons belonging to my own establishment happened, while on their way to Belgaum, to have been drugged and robbed when alighted at Marihall, ten miles from my head quarters. On that occasion I endeavoured in vain to discover the perpetrators, feeling somewhat incensed at such an outrage being practised upon people connected with a Department I thought would be avoided. Though failing then, the matter was not lost sight of; and having had occasion to send one of my approvers to the Dharwar Jail as a punishment, he on his release informed me that he had learnt from a fellow-prisoner the name of the party who had taken part in the above offence. I immediately sent to have him seized, which was done just as he was at the same time required to answer for a similar act of crime he had, joined by two associates, but recently committed at Hindkull, in the Elaka (or province) of the Putwurdhun of Shetbal, and which had terminated

in the deaths, from the effects of the drug, of two goatherds, and the robbery of their entire flock of 115 goats.

"20. His name was Khadir, a Mussulman, belonging to the said village of Marihall, situated in the Elaka of the Putwurdhun* of Sanglee; and I solicited the Political Agent Southern Muratha Country to permit me to have the custody of him, with the view to my prosecuting an inquiry whether there existed any organised gangs of professional poisoners, such as this man and his associates seemed to belong to, and whom I proposed to proceed against under the provisions of the several Acts for the suppression of Thugs and Thuggee, should I find them to come within the scope of those special laws: Colonel Sleeman, the late General Superintendent of the Department, having remarked, in an old report, that since the large associations of Thugs had been broken up by the proceedings of the Department, he believed the crime still to be occasionally practised by isolated members of the fraternity, who, in want of hands, made use of poisonous drugs, by administering which they contrived to rob their victims while under the effects thereof.

"21. Subjoined is my report on the subject to the Political Agent Southern Muratha Country (viz. to J. D. Inverarity, Esq., No. 211, dated 30th December 1851†), showing, that while the crime certainly existed, there was nothing, with reference to any systematic *combination* for its purposes, as could lead me to include it in the crime of *thuggee*, the suppression whereof appertained to the duties of this Department.

"22. It presents itself, however, from the inquiry, that some precautions ought to be adopted to check this crime, which, if continued to be licensed, as it in a manner would seem to be from the few reports of its occurrence when really occurring, might grow into one of serious magnitude.

"23. With this view, I respectfully beg to submit to Government the returns I had, while in the course of the inquiry, called for from the several local Authorities, of the extent of the crime in their respective jurisdictions during the past two years (1850-51). They exhibit the following reported instances, viz:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| In the Belgaum Collectorate | ..... | 3 |
| Dharwar ditto | ..... | 3 |
| Sattara State | ..... | 4 |
| Poona Collectorate | ..... | 6 |
| Ahmednuggur Collectorate | ..... | 1 |
| Rutnagherry ditto | ..... | 4 |
| Khandeish ditto | ..... | 1 |

* The family name of several of the Chieftains of the Southern Muratha Country.

† This report has been annexed to this Appendix, at page 133.

| | |
|---|---|
| In the Sholapore Collectorate | 4 |
| Tanna, ditto | 20 |
| Sawunt Waree State | None. |
| Angria's Colaba State | None. |
| Surat Collectorate | 4 |
| Jagheerdar States | 2 |
| Total | 52 |

Attended with the deaths from the poisons of fifteen of the drugged parties, with the punishment of only thirteen of the criminals in twelve of the cases *in which death did not ensue*, and with the robbery of property to the value of Rs. 5,717-0-10, with but the recovery to the extent thereof of Rs. 48-10-11.

"24. The above may not be calculated to excite any particular observation, or alarm, on account of this crime; but I regret to say that I do not think it displays its actual extent.

"25. That it does not do so, may be gathered from the Report I have ventured to refer you to (viz. the letter to Mr. Inverarity, No. 211 of 1851), in which it is shown that of the twenty-four instances of the crime elicited during the inquiry as the deed of the man Khadir and his companions, *five only had been known to the Police, or had been reported;* from which I am apprehensive, that probably the above are a few only of the cases that have really taken place in the districts of the Presidency.

"26. I am not, however, disposed to attach any blame on that account to the Police, because I find that, in several of the instances, *females* had been the dupes. They have generally been returning home from the neighbouring market towns, or proceeding on some visit, when met and accosted by the scoundrels; by suffering whom to accompany them, they have been easily persuaded to partake of their 'sweetmeats,'—and on returning to consciousness only have they become aware of the cheat and robbery. For obvious reasons, they would keep the matter to themselves, for fear of what might not be attributed to them.

"27. The robberies, too, being generally to but a trifling extent, the suffering parties, whether men or women, would abstain from making any formal complaints thereof, in order to avoid the much dreaded liability of being frequently called away from their employments to give evidence on the subject,—a feeling which, it is to be feared, leads much to the prevalence of crime; *and it is only when death has ensued* that a report may be depended on being made."

"33. The return of poisoning cases is as favourable, but, for reasons stated in my last Annual Report, should not be taken as a criterion of the real extent of so secret a crime. The total number of reported instances thereof during 1852 amount to twenty-one, followed by the deaths of two of the drugged parties, and with the conviction and punishment of three men in three of the instances *in which death did not ensue.* In 1850-51, the reported cases amounted to fifty-two, attended with the deaths of fifteen persons, and the punishment in like manner of thirteen men.

Captain Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent, to the Secretary to the Government, Bombay, Judicial Department, No. 61, dated 6th May 1853, paragraph 33, and part of paragraph 34.

"34. The several Superintendents of Police cannot, however, be too frequent in their injunctions to their subordinates to seek out and report all occasions of this crime, the great object being to keep it from gaining head, and its members from forming any systematic combination for its purposes, as in the case of thuggee properly so called; for it has been justly observed in your letter to my address under date 19th June 1852, No. 4576, paragraph 3, that 'the danger of the crime increasing is in proportion to the difficulty of detection'; and I shall be glad if this could be impressed upon all Magistrates, upon whose prompt communications the Department has necessarily to depend."

Para. 15. It may also be shown, from reported instances of the crime, what commonly is the fate of those upon whom it is successfully practised:—

Fate of the Victims of Datura Thugs.

"28. Suffered thus to thrive by the crime, its followers would have little to fear but the chance of administering an overdose, causing death, which it does not appear to be any part of their system to design; and as by their prosperity would more be led to follow their example, it is not difficult to imagine how often murder may be committed, by the use, by ignorant persons, though but for the sake of simple robbery, of drugs obtained from trees and roots in the jungles, the proportions of which must in all cases be but guessed at, according to their estimate of the sense-retaining faculties of those to be made insensible.

Captain Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Judicial Department, No. 52, dated 26th March 1852, paragraphs 28 to 30.

"29. Thus, in May 1848, a man and a woman (brother and sister) set out together from their village of Goorgirree, in the Chikoree Talooka,* on a visit to their daughter-in-law at Belgaum, the son of the woman being left at home. While on their return shortly after, they saw by the way a man seated

* A sub-division of a district.

under a mango tree, his face partly concealed with his 'kumblee' or blanket, who, on being told, in answer to his inquiries, that they were going to Goorgirree, said he would accompany them, as that he too was going to the same place. Resting at a nulla (rivulet) somewhat further on, to refresh themselves a little during the great heat of mid-day, the stranger, on observing that they were about to partake of some parched rice, said he had some sweetmeat that had formed a portion of a 'prussadh' or offering to Arwéuppa (a Hindoo idol), and that he would give them some as a relish to their repast. To partake of such being commonly believed to be productive of benefits, they accepted the seeming kindness, and ate of what he gave them accordingly. On resuming their journey, both soon began to wander about in a state of stupefaction. *Four days after*, the woman recovered her senses, and found that she had been deprived of the few personal ornaments she had about her, her brother not present, and the pack-bullock she had been riding, gone. She hastened, first to the temple close by dedicated to Arwéuppa, and thence to her home, where she told her son of what had occurred, adding, that she did not know what had become of his uncle. He, accompanied by a friend, hurried to the spot above indicated, and searched about for his missing relative. Hard by, up among some hills, they discovered the skull, ribs, and mangled limbs, of a human body, that had been devoured by jackals and dogs. The lad had no doubt they formed the remains of his uncle, though their condition did not admit of his identifying them as positively such. *The sweetmeat had been drugged.* Again, one day in November 1849, two little girls and a boy, all about the same age, were tending some cattle of an aunt in the open country adjacent to Hooblee (Belgaum), and close to a temple to Bussapa (another Hindoo idol). A man, enveloped in a black kumblee, came up to them, and said that his bullock had strayed, and that by distributing among them some sugar he had been offering to the idol, it would serve as a charm in his recovering the lost animal. They partook of it; the two girls but sparingly, 'because it tasted bitter.' The lad ate the whole of his share. The former were found near the temple in a state of insensibility, by a cultivator whose approach had scared away the ruffian, who consequently lost his booty. They recovered on the following day; and the latter, dead and stiff, in a field some little distance off. On another occasion, in the following December, a little girl and two boys, one of the latter blind, were, in the same way, in charge of cattle in some fields near Yedhullee (Dharwar). A man came up to them, and gave them some parched rice and some sweetmeat, saying it was part of a prussadh of the 'deo' (or idol), and that he could not think of partaking of it without giving some to such children. The three were found lying in a neighbouring nulla, the blind boy not so completely lost to

consciousness as his two companions. Antidotes were quickly administered by their affrighted relatives, and they recovered.

"30. On each of the above occasions, as in almost every instance, *but only one man was seen* as the real culprit, pretending to be a Hindoo; but he was, except on the last mentioned occurrence, the man Khadir himself, disguised as a Hindoo, his companions keeping themselves unseen. On the third occasion, again, he was one of those who remained retired."

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Extract from the Crime Report from the Assistant Superintendent of Police of Nassick, No. 2 of 1854, dated 14th April 1854.

"Ramnac, pensioner of the 3rd Company 5th Battalion Artillery, and residing at Raidgaum, Talooka Chandore, with Beekhee his wife, came to Nassick to receive his pension, then seven months due, from the Poona Pension Paymaster, and they took up their residence in the house of Kondia wulud Soeeria Mahar, resident of Nassick, and the father-in-law of the prisoner Govinda wulud Yemmia Mahar: On the 20th February, Ramnac received his pension, viz. Rs. 49, for seven months, and bought gold and necessaries with the money. In addition to this, he had other property, which altogether now amounted to Rs. 56-9-4, in gold and ornaments, and Rs. 9 ready money. On the 23rd February, they, (Ramnac and Bheekee), set out for the 'juthra' or fair at Trimbuck. At Satpoor, they fell in with Govinda, who accompanied them to Peepulgaum. Here they separated, Govinda going into the village, and they pursuing their journey. At Myrownee, the prisoner again caught them up, and gave them two 'pairas,' a native sweetmeat, which they accepted and ate. The pairas were not such as would be purchased from a sweetmeat seller. The same evening they reached Kamballa, and there vomiting and purging took place. They remained there during the night, and the following morning a dooly (or litter) was procured for the woman, and the man rode his pony. No sooner had they reached the tank, than the woman requested to be taken out. They acceded to her request, *and whilst lifting her out she expired.* * * * An inquest was held on the body, and a verdict given that 'the deceased had died from the effects of poison.' The deposition of the complainant was at once taken on oath, who related all the above facts. The complainant appeared better, but, not continuing to improve as he should have done, he was despatched to Nassick, *but at Satpoor, on the 26th February, he expired.* After a *post-mortem* examination, the Civil Surgeon, J. M. Knapp, Esq., decided that the man 'had died from the effects of poison,' and forwarded the contents of the stomach, which were of a greenish colour, in a bottle to the District Police Officer.

"The Mahar with whom they put up at Kamballa states on oath that both

deceased and his wife said before him to the Rukhwaldar (or watchman) of the village, that the prisoner had given them two pairas, which they ate."

Extract from the Crime Report from the Assistant Superintendent of Police of Nassick, No. 3 of 1853, dated 14th December 1853.

"On the 25th October, the Police Patel* made a report to the Joint Police Officer, that he had received intimation that, near the tank, some clothes were lying, but no men were to be seen. On this, search was made by the Patel and villagers, when two men were found lying in an adjoining field, intoxicated with some drug. The Joint Police Officer received this report on the same day, and proceeded at once to the spot. From the evidence of these two men, who had then recovered, it appears that a party of four, consisting of themselves, and Naroo and Luckoo Patel, had set out from Bombay to visit Trimbuck. At Bhewndy, two others, viz. a Purbhoo by caste and a Puidêsee Brahmin, joined their party. At Kassara they all bought some flour and 'dhal' (split vetches), and gave it to the two last mentioned to keep. At Geernaree, Luckoo Patel cooked some of this for their (the four's) dinner. After partaking of it, they were all four taken sick with giddiness and vomiting. 'In this intoxicated state, we made for the tank, and Naroo and Luckoo Patel must have fallen in.' Naroo and Luckoo had in their possession property to the amount of Rs. 106-10-0, in all Rs. 159-4-0. Search was immediately made, *and two lifelcss bodies were discovered in the tank, and recognised to be those of Naroo and Luckoo Patel.* No property whatever was found on the parties, but their clothes."

Captain Rose, Officiating Superintendent of Police of Khandeish, to Captain Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent, No. 35, dated 25th June 1855.

"With reference to Police printed Circular No. 31, and accompaniment thereto, I have the honour to inform you that a case of poisoning, or rather drugging, took place at the 'dhurumsala'† of the village of Jhorga, on the Agra high road, in the Malligaum Talooka, on the 7th instant.

"Three travellers, Mahomedshah wulud Oomershah, of Islamabad, in Cashmere; Shaik Khoodabuksh wulud Panga, of Deenanuggur (Punjaub); and Gooroo Balladas bin Gooroo Kunnaidas, a Rajpoot, converted and become a Fakeer, were on the above date at Jhorga, consulting about preparing a meal, when they were joined by a Mussulman, who gave his name to be Shaik Hussun Ali, of Indore, who offered them a cake to eat, and appease their hunger with before commencing to cook. They divided the cake among them, and ate it.

"A Police Sepoy came when it was becoming dusk in the evening, and warned them against accepting food from any stranger.

* Village Headman. There are generally two Patels in each village, one having magisterial and the other revenue jurisdiction; and these offices are usually hereditary.—C.H.

† Alms-house or place of shelter for wayfarers, erected by charitable people.

"They at that time felt drowsy, but they ate their dinner, and afterwards became insensible, not, however, before the stranger Mussulman had again come and sat down near them; and on their attempting to catch him he gave them a lash with something like a leather whip, and ran away. They lost nothing but an umbrella, a leather water-bucket and string, a cloth cap, two rings, eight emeralds, and a bag, altogether worth Rs. 12-7-0; the Rs. 46 they had in cash remained safe.

" The guilty party has escaped detection as yet.

" Since the above occurrence, three other offences of a somewhat similar nature have taken place in this Zilla, two in the Dhoolia, and one in the Amulnair Talooka.

" In each case the culprit or culprits, *though it seems the work of one person*, have exercised their craft upon children, who, on some plausible plea, were inveigled into the jungle and deprived of their ornaments.

" If one of your detectives, acquainted with Khandeish, were deputed here, he might succeed in discovering the authors of the above offences, and stop the further spread of this rather unusual species of crime."

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Captain Rose, Officiating Superintendent of Police of Khandeish, to Captain Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent, No. 92, dated 18th December 1855.

" In accordance with Police printed Circular No. 31, of the 15th June 1853, I have the honour to bring to your notice that on the 2nd instant, at the village of Pallasnair, near the Sindwa Ghaut, in the Thalnair Talooka, two Brahmin travellers arrived.

" One of them mixed some narcotic in the other's food, which rendered him insensible, and temporarily deranged; an opportunity which the poisoner took to disappear with all his victim's goods, consisting of cash, clothes, pots and pans, &c. to the value of Rs. 66-4-0.

" A 'lota'* of the delinquent's was discovered, and was sent to the Mamlutdar of Thalnair.

" It was discovered that the Thug had taken the route towards Dhoolia, and pursuit was made.

" The injured party gives his name Dr. Sambh Wydh, and says he has of late been residing at Indore. His unprincipled companion joined him at the Nerbudda, and said his name was Wassoodeo Punt, which is all the unfortunate physician Sambh knows about him."

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Datura Thuggee reconsidered, with reference to the Decrease of Crime.

Para. 42. In declaring, however, that organised crime has diminished within the range over which my operations extend, it is incumbent that I should make some reservation with respect to any decrease of the crime of "thuggee by means of poisons," already before noticed.

* Brass or copper water-pot.

Para. 43. I have shown, from the extracts quoted on the subject of this crime under the 14th paragraph of this Report* (to the Bombay Government, No. 52, dated 26th March 1852), that if reports of its occurrence continued to be withheld, as there was reason to apprehend they were, it might grow into one of serious magnitude; that death might continue to be dealt without design, arising but from the ignorance, on the part of the persons practising the offence, of the deadly effects of the drugs on some at least of the people to whom they may administer the same; and that a system of robbery, thus often combined with murder, might continue to be perpetrated in these districts, without any serious efforts for its suppression, when any report thereof was generally only to be looked for *on death actually ensuing*.

The danger of Datura Thuggee.

And evil consequences.

Para. 44. I have further shown, from the extracts (given under the same paragraph) from my Report No. 61, dated 6th May 1853, the notice taken by the Government of Bombay of what I had ventured to place before them as above†; by whom it was further observed, in reply to that report (Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, to Captain Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent, No. 1263, dated 15th June 1853), that the Superintendents of Police would be directed to watch for the appearance of the crime, and to report it directly they heard of it, "the great object being, as you justly observe, to prevent its members from organising themselves systematically."

Observation of the Bombay Government with regard to Datura Thuggee.

Para. 45. In my Annual Report to the Bombay Government for the year 1853 (to the Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, No. 64, dated 2nd May 1854, paragraph 17 and part of 18), I stated,—

"17. The crime of robbery by administering deleterious drugs (*i. e.* 'mawa' or 'datura' thuggee) continues to be practised here and there in the territories subordinate to the Bombay Presidency; even occasionally at Bombay itself,—a case having, I perceive, been tried during the recent Sessions of the Supreme Court of Judicature; but, I am happy to think, not to any great extent. I have still, however, to say, that the infrequency of the crime is not to be resolved from the small number of reported instances thereof. But twenty cases have been reported to have taken place throughout my range during 1853, attended with the deaths from the effects of the poisons of five persons, viz. one man in the Akulkote Elaka, and four men in the Nassick Sub-Collectorate. Of nineteen apprehended parties, one man was punished by the local Magistrate, twelve were released, and six committed to Sessions Courts, the result of whose trials has not been communicated.

* Vide page 122. † Vide paragraph 34, page 125.

"18. The crime is committed by both Mussulmans and Hindoos,—generally, I believe, in isolated gangs, unconnected with each other."

Declaration of the Bombay Government how Datura Thuggee may be repressed.

Para. 46. Government replied to this, in Resolution dated 6th March 1855, No. 1066, paragraph 7, that "the system of robbery by administering drugs, called 'mawa' or 'datura thuggee' *was one of the heinous classes of crimes against which the law provided, and could be repressed only by the severe punishment of those convicted of practising it.*"

Inadequacy of the Ordinary Law for the Suppression of Datura Thuggee considered.

Para. 47. Whether I have or have not succeeded in creating any impression as to the serious nature of the crime under advertence; whether I have given sufficient reasons, from my various notices thereof, for saying that it is a crime that is practised, from which death does ensue, and that punishment does *not* follow commensurate with the offence,—I must leave to superior judgment to decide; but, impressed as I am, I submit most respectfully, with a sense of my bounden duty on a subject so intimately connected with the welfare of a large bulk of unoffending people, who, in their minds secure from harm under the protection of the Government they rejoice they live under, fear not to go whither they list; but of whom at any rate *some do*, even in the enjoyment of such fancied security, fall victims to wretches who, equally secure, from immunity afforded by the very laws that, intended for their punishment, they by experience know neither prevent them nor protect the others, watch for the unwary to spoil or to murder them,—I cannot refrain from taking advantage of the opportunity offered, in a report of this kind, to bring prominently to notice the prevalence of this dangerous crime, and to the *inadequacy* of the existing laws for its prevention.

Para. 48. Sure that my motives cannot be misunderstood, I submit, for such notice as you think proper, the correspondence (named in the margin, and copies of which appear in the Appendix),* with an earnest but respectful hope that the subject may engage your attention; particularly whether, as the provisions of Act XXIX. of 1850 were so admirably devised to check the crime when perpetrated within the jurisdiction of Her Majesty's Courts of Justice in India, in the equal absence

1. Captain Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent, to Mr. Secretary Erskine, No. 56, dated 24th April 1854.
2. Mr. Secretary Anderson to Captain Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent, No. 3657, dated 2nd August 1854.
3. The Registrar of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut to Mr. Secretary Anderson, No. 1633, dated 4th July 1854.
4. Government Memorandum in the Judicial Department, to Captain Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent, No. 2769, dated 25th June 1855.
5. Captain Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent, to Mr. Secretary Anderson, No. 124, dated 2nd July 1855.

* At pages 136 to 141.

6. Resolution of the Bombay Government in the Judicial Department, No. 3289, dated 28th July 1855.
7. Ditto ditto, No. 3732, dated 24th August 1855.

Reasons why Act XXIX. of 1850, for the punishment of poisoners, might be declared a General Act.

therein, as far as my observation justifies me in stating, of any greater necessity for the operation within it of any such severer law than within the far wider territorial scope of the Honorable Company, that law may not be recommended to be extended with similar benefit to other parts of India: appearing, as it does in my humble opinion, that a crime not met by any stringent measures in so considerable a portion of the empire must, as a matter of course, be far more frequently committed in it than in the spots that, forming but a limited portion of the whole of India, inhabited too, as they in fact are, and frequented by people who but represent the great body of the population of that vast peninsula, can bear no proportion to it at all.

Para. 49. To be more perfectly understood, I submit, that if it was necessary to enact a law (XXIX. of 1850) for the better prevention, within the jurisdiction of Her Majesty's Courts of Judicature, of a crime considered to require some rigorous decree for its readier suppression, but found, however, to need the same, from the actual occurrence of the crime (detected, as it probably was, because in such comparatively confined localities as comprise the judicial limits of the Supreme Courts it was not, with the efficient Police belonging to those places, difficult to discover the perpetrators), it is but reasonable to infer that, in a much wider range of territory, in which the Police are neither so efficient, nor, with reference to their distribution, so numerous, and in which the same crime *does prevail* (to what greater extent it is not hard to be conjectured, even from no better premises than I have been able to submit), it is at least quite as necessary that the same law should obtain for the prevention of the same heinous crime?

Act XXIX. of 1850 as a General Act advocated.

Para. 50. In urging such a measure, I can only look forward to the effects of it. Let the same law be introduced into the Mofussil as is in force within the towns of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, the special jurisdictions of Her Majesty's Justices; let its territorial scope be *general*, as the Index to the Acts for the year 1850, by some felicitous misapprehension, declares Act XXIX. to be; let justice be dealt accordingly to the class of offenders its provisions are intended to reach,—and the crime of robbery by administering poisons would be more seldom heard of.

The good results to be expected from Act XXIX. of 1850 being made a general one.

Para. 51. The Government of Bombay have stated that it is "a heinous crime, and can be repressed only by the severe punishment of those detected in practising it";

The immunity afforded to Datura Thugs when tried under the Ordinary Law.

yet that it is "of a class for which the law provides": but, as already above shown, it is practised in such a way *that but one person is seen,* namely the man by whom the drugged sweetmeat is administered;—he is seen, to be noticed, only by the persons who, by partaking of what they believe is kindly offered, very soon after fall into a state of insensibility. In that state they are robbed by him and his *unseen* associates; and if they do not die, they recover on but the second or third day; they have but an indistinct recollection of the stranger by whom they were accosted, and from whom they received the fatal meal. Their evidence must be of the most unsatisfactory description. The precautions on the part of the culprits save them from being discovered in the possession of any portion of the property plundered by them. Acquittal necessarily ensues; or, if any conviction is gained, the punishment under the ordinary law is immaterial,—certainly not sufficient to deter others from following the same malpractices, or the convicted parties either from again reverting to them on their eventual liberation. *Severe punishment is not attained.*

Para. 52. Let the offence, however, be regarded as a growing evil, or at all events *an existing one,* and let the law be introduced I have ventured to suggest, ensuring the sévere punishment evoked by the Government of Bombay,—death or transportation for life. The crime would then, with the aid of the testimony of accomplices (the only evidence by which, as in the other organised transgressions recognised by this Department, the deed can be fixed upon the delinquents), very soon be circumscribed and put down, *and the Department* be enabled to effect this under a system of convicted approvers and the operation of the rules by which it is guided: for I believe it to be generally acknowledged, *that it is competent only to this Department to suppress it effectually.*

Under the operation of Act XXIX. of 1850, as a General Law, Datura Thuggee may be suppressed by the Thuggee Department.

(True extracts)

(Signed) C. Hervey, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

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No. 211 of 1851.

Thuggee and Dacoity Department.

From Captain C. Hervey,
Assistant General Superintendent,
To J. D. Inverarity, Esq.,
Political Agent Southern Muratha Country, Belgaum.

*Dated Belgaum, 30th December* 1851.

Sir,—With reference to my Muratha yadi (or memorandum) to the address

of your predecessor, No. 214, dated 12th July last, requesting the custody of a man named Khadir, residing at Marihall, in the Elaka of the Putwurdhun of Sanglee, and to Mr. Reeves' endorsement dated 12th idem, complying with the request, and desiring that the man might be returned when no longer required, with the view to proceedings against him in a case of poisoning and robbery at Hindkull, in the Elaka of the Putwurdhun of Shetbal, I have the honour to submit, herewith, the proceedings of my inquiry into the supposed existence in the Southern Muratha Country of bodies of professional poisoners, among whom the man Khadir was believed to be a principal man.

2. My object for this inquiry was, to ascertain whether any secret associations existed, here or elsewhere, for the purpose of robbery by means of poisons, as could be stated to form any such general and systematic combination as 'thuggee' in its unrepressed times, owing to which it might be necessary to carry on the same operations for its suppression as peculiarly the duty of this Department; for, from various reports, I had reason to believe that the crime of robbery, by producing stupefaction, was a very common one in many of the districts under this Presidency; and it became me to inquire whether the same could be comprehended within that of 'thuggee.'

3. I am now able to state that it has not been elicited from these proceedings that there is any such general confederacy of this class of criminals as could warrant me to proceed against them as professional Thugs, with any prospect of the evidence of approvers being as sufficient for their conviction as the comprehensive nature of thuggee and dacoity admits of in the various Courts of law; and that, consequently, upon the present information only, it would be as yet premature for this Department to take any further measures against them.

4. You will perceive, however, from my proceedings, which, according to the course obtaining in the Department, consist of a record or file of every document that has passed during the inquiry, and the whole of which, for your readier reference and perusal, I have transcribed into English, that the number of elicited cases of robbery by means of poison has been twenty-three within the past five years, in which the man Khadir was a principal, and, according to his account, nineteen others his accomplices; and that an additional case has been deposed to (the drugging and robbery at Nasurgee of Bheema Korwee), the perpetrators of which remain unknown.

5. The above twenty-four cases have occurred as follow, viz:—

15 in the Belgaum Zilla.
2 in the Dharwar Zilla.
1 in the Canara Zilla.
6 in the Putwurdhun States.

6. One of the cases in the Dharwar Zilla was attended with the death, from the effects of the drug, of one person; and two in the Putwurdhun States, with the deaths, from the same cause, of three persons.

7. Of the twenty-four cases, one only of the fifteen in the Belgaum Zilla, two in the Dharwar Zilla, and two in the Putwurdhun States, were reported by the Police Authorities, or were even known to them; the rest only became elicited during the present inquiry, of which last, six in the Belgaum Zilla and two in the Putwurdhun Elaka, have been verified in this Office by the poisoned parties, the rest remaining as yet unauthenticated.

8. Thus, of the total number of twenty-four cases, five only were known to the Police—that is, were reported by them; and thirteen, including the above five, have been established.

9. The number of persons engaged in these acts of crime—excluding for the single case above alluded to, the guilty parties in which are unknown—amounts to twenty men, of whom eleven are residents of the Belgaum Zilla, one of the Kolapore State, two of the Koorundwar Elaka, and six of that of the Putwurdhun of Sanglee; the head quarters of the latter, which include the principal or leading members of the whole, being at Marihall, ten miles from Belgaum, where all the expeditions resulting in the above acts would seem to have been planned.

10. Of the above twenty persons, the following would, according to the statements of Khadir, be the extent of the implication of each:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 (Khadir) concerned in ..... | 23 | affairs. | |
| 1 (Lingya Bedur) in ..... | 4 | do. | |
| 1 (Mootgiah Bedur) in ..... | 11 | do. | |
| 3 in ..... .... | 2 | do. | each. |
| 14, including Lugmunna and Raya, in.... | 1 | do. | each. |

11. Of these, three are Mussulmans, eleven are Bedurs, four are Kolies, one a Muratha, and one a Dhêr. They are unconnected with each other by any ties, or by even any conventional obligations towards each other, so binding among other, the more maturely formed, classes of professional criminals; and they all, except one man (Mootgiah), reside at fixed places.

12. The above data have been gathered chiefly from the statements of Khadir and Lingya, two confessing parties; and, besides their own, there is no evidence whatever against any of the others, except direct in one instance, against the man Mootgiah Bedur, and presumptive against Lugmunna and Raya.

13. It is evident, therefore, from the above premises, that, though from the circumstantial, however qualified, statements of the two confessing parties, it

might not be doubted that complicity on the part of the others existed, any case committed upon the evidence only of those two men, would not sustain conviction in any of the ordinary Courts of Justice, the crimes having been secretly executed, and generally *only the man who administered the stupefying drug* having been perceived by the victims.

14. From my proceedings, you will perceive, however, that five men have been taken into custody during this inquiry, of whom one is a resident of the Company's territory, the rest being inhabitants of the Sanglee Elaka; and as the crime, therefore, at Hindkull, for which Khadir was about to be tried by your predecessor, as alluded to in the 1st paragraph of this letter, and which resulted in the deaths of the two poisoned parties, and in the robbery of a flock of 115 goats, implicates two of the others, including the man Raya, and as the others reside also within your jurisdiction, I now do myself the honour to transfer them to your custody, for such further measures as you may consider necessary: and I would beg here to solicit your favourable view of the claim I consider the man Khadir has, as adverted to in my finding, to being exempted from the punishment of death; it having evidently been his object, though without any assurances from myself, to make the disclosures now elicited, upon the hope of perhaps being able to save himself by so doing; and I may be permitted to record my appeal in his behalf accordingly.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. Hervey, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

*Assistant General Superintendent's Office, Belgaum, 30th December* 1851.

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## B.

No. 56 of 1854.

Thuggee and Dacoity Department.

To C. J. Erskine, Esq.,
Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Bombay.

Sir,—As I have, in the proposed Act for the better prevention of Thuggee, &c. in the territories comprehended under the Bombay Presidency, submitted with my letter to your address No. 54, dated 22nd instant,* suggested, that its provisions should extend to Act XXIX. of 1850, and as by Clause III. of the

* Vide *post* at pages 141 and 144.

latter, it is declared, that it shall be construed with and as part of Act XXXI. of 1838; and as a doubt may exist whether, under the operation of Clause II. of the latter Act, the provisions of Act XXIX. of 1850 can be intended to extend to any other persons than those comprehended within the jurisdiction of Her Majesty's Courts of Justice, I have the honour to request that the question may be referred to the Legal Remembrancer of Government, viz. whether, as Act XXIX. of 1850 is entituled an Act "for the prevention of poisoning," it may not be construed, although declared to be an amendment of Act XXXI. of 1838, to apply to the crime of poisoning *throughout* the territories of the Honorable East India Company, whatever the jurisdiction?

2. For the Act (XXIX. of 1850) meets so completely the crime of robbery and murder by administering deleterious drugs on the part of persons associated together for its purposes (in the Department called Datura Thugs), that, with reference to the prevalence of that crime within the Bombay Presidency, it would very much facilitate the operations of this Agency against that class of criminals if the said Act could be declared to extend to the crime of Thuggee, as interpreted by Act III. of 1848.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. HERVEY, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

*Assistant General Superintendent's Office, Belgaum, 24th April* 1854.

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No. 3657 OF 1854.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

To Captain C. HERVEY,
Assistant General Superintendent.

SIR,—With reference to your letter dated the 24th April last, No. 56, I am directed to transmit, for your information, copy of a letter from the Registrar of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut, dated the 4th ultimo, No. 1633, and to inform you that His Lordship in Council entirely concurs in the opinion of the Judges of the Sudder Adawlut therein expressed.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Secretary to Government.

*Bombay Castle, 2nd August* 1854.

No. 1633 of 1854.

To H. L. Anderson, Esq.,
Secretary to Government, Judicial Department.

Sir,—I have the honour, by direction of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut, to acknowledge your letter of the 22nd ultimo, No. 3146, forwarding, for the opinion of the Court, copy of a letter from the Assistant General Superintendent of the Operations for the Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity in the Southern Muratha Country, and requesting to be informed whether the Judges consider that Acts XXXI. of 1838 and XXIX. of 1850, should be declared general Acts for the whole of India.

In reply, I am desired to state, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that the Judges are not aware that any necessity exists for extending the Acts in question to the whole of India. No case has yet been brought to the notice of the Court which would have been punished by those Acts, and was not adequately punished by the Acts and Regulations in force; and until cases of that kind arise, the Judges would not advocate the introduction of so radical a change in the penal laws, as the introduction into India, generally, of this Act, intended to be administered only by Her Majesty's Supreme Court, would be.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) M. A. Coxon,
Registrar.

*Bombay, Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut, 4th July* 1854.

(True copy)

(Signed) H. L. Anderson,
Secretary to Government.

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No. 2769 of 1855.

Judicial Department.

MEMORANDUM.

In a letter dated the 22nd April 1854, No. 53, to the address of the Assistant Superintendent of Police at Nassick, Captain Hervey, Assistant General Superintendent of the Operations for the Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity, requested that the prisoner Govinda wulud Yemmia Mhar,

charged with murder, might not be released in the event of his acquittal after trial, but might be made over to the Thuggee and Dacoity Department.

Captain Hervey is now requested to inform Government whether he still requires Govinda wulud Yemmia, as it appears from a letter from the Assistant Magistrate in charge Nassick, that, by some misapprehension of orders, the man was not sent to the Thuggee Department, but was released on acquittal.

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Secretary to Government.

*Bombay Castle, 25th June* 1855.

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No. 124 OF 1855.

THUGGEE AND DACOITY DEPARTMENT.

To H. L. ANDERSON, Esq.,
Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Bombay.

SIR,—In reply to the inquiry contained in your memorandum under date 25th ultimo, No. 2769, whether, with reference to my letter to the address of the Assistant Superintendent of Police at Nassick, No. 53, dated 22nd April last, the man Govinda wulud Yemmia Mhar was still required by this Department, I have the honour to state that, under my great anxiety to extend the operations of this Agency to the suppression of the crime of robbery by administering poisons (mawa or datura thuggee), it was my wish to obtain the custody of the individual referred to, as I expected that, by an inquiry into his case, some further information might be elicited respecting the persons in the habit of practising it.

2. The decision, however, of Government in the case of the first man I had ventured to send up for trial charged with that crime, whose services as an approver I believed I had secured, presented, it is my respectful opinion, so great an obstacle to further proceedings against that class of wrong-doers on the part of this Agency, that it would now be scarcely necessary to have the man Govinda re-arrested.

Government Resolution in the Judicial Department, No. 3568, under date 13th July 1854, in the case (No. IX. of 1854) of Davee Sing *alias* Keseodass, tried by the Political Agent Southern Muratha Country.

3. The sentiments of Government, as expressed in paragraph 5 of their Resolution in the case already quoted, that the crime under reference "might be tried under the ordinary laws," having been reiterated in paragraph 7 of their Resolution under date 6th March last, on my Annual Report for 1853, as communicated to the Officer lately officiating for me (letter No. 1066, dated

10th March 1855), to the effect that the system of robbery by administering deleterious drugs "was one of the heinous classes of crime against which the law provided," I may not presume to urge anything in contravention of the same; but as Government have also recorded, in the same resolution, that "the crime could be repressed only by the severe punishment of those convicted of practising it," it might, in the estimation of Government, be useful, in any further deliberations upon so important a subject, to consider how often the ordinary laws have sufficed for the sufficient punishment, or even for the conviction, of the parties charged with robbing people by means of drugs, attended, as the crime has so often been, by the deaths of the parties to whom the drugs have been administered; since, in the very instance of the man Govinda, it would appear, that although shown that it was by him that the drugged sweetmeat (mawa) was given to the two persons who, by partaking of it, were deprived of life, yet that he was acquitted and set at liberty.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. Hervey, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

*Assistant General Superintendent's Office, Belgaum, 2nd July* 1855.

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No. 3289 of 1855.

Judicial Department.

To the Assistant General Superintendent of the
Operations for the Suppression of Dacoity, Belgaum.

*COPY OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED BY GOVERNMENT on a Letter from the Assistant General Superintendent of the Operations for the Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity, dated the 2nd July* 1855, *No.* 124, *stating that it would now be scarcely necessary to have the man Govinda wulud Yemmia Mhar re-arrested.*

That Government adheres to its opinion that a crime, the punishment of which has been provided for by the law, must be dealt with according to law, and not by any extraordinary procedure, which should only be resorted to in extreme cases. The Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut may be asked whether, in their opinion, the law as it stands is at all defective, or inoperative, with relation to the crime of poisoning for purposes of robbery or murder, and a copy of this letter be sent to them.

The Joint Magistrate of Nassick has been informed that Govinda wulud Yemmia Mhar is not required by the Thuggee Department.

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Secretary to Government.

*Bombay Castle, 28th July* 1855.

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No. 3732 OF 1855.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

To Captain C. HERVEY,
Assistant General Superintendent.

*Bombay Castle, 24th August* 1855.

SIR,—With reference to your letter No. 124, dated the 2nd ultimo, and to the Government Resolution No. 3289, dated the 28th idem, I am desired to intimate to you that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council considers a change in the law on the subject of poisoning is not necessary.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Secretary to Government.

(True copies)

(Signed) C. HERVEY, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

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No. 54 OF 1854.

THUGGEE AND DACOITY DEPARTMENT.

From Captain C. HERVEY,
Assistant General Superintendent,

To C. J. ERSKINE, Esq.,
Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Bombay.

*Dated Belgaum, 22nd April* 1854.

SIR,—The publication for general information, in the *Government Gazette* of the 6th instant, of the Draft of a proposed Act read in the Legislative Council for the first time on the 10th March 1854, to repeal Clause 2, Section

XXXV. Regulation XII. of 1827 of the Bombay Code, leads me to address Government on the subject thereof, as to whether the provisions of such an Act will meet sufficiently the requirements of this Department.

2. The clause proposed to be repealed is, that "the evidence of an accomplice shall operate against a prisoner only so far as it corroborates that of other witnesses, or strengthens impressions produced by circumstances"; the new Act providing that "the degree of credit to be given to the evidence of an accomplice ought in every case to be left to the determination of the Court or Officer whose duty it is to decide the case."

3. I would respectfully submit, that the above terms being general, and not positively definitive, there would not, it appears to me, be any guarantee secured to this Department, that the evidence of its approvers shall in each case have the same credit given to it by the superior or Appellate Court, as may have been accorded by the Court or Officer by whom the case may have been decided.

4. However sufficient for general purposes, and facilitating very much the prosecution of ordinary cases of crime committed for trial by local Magistrates, there would, from the multiplicity of instances tried under the proposed Act, arise so many interpretations of its provisions, that, inasmuch as our operations are concerned, there must follow at no distant period, I venture to state, from the difficulties I have hitherto met with, an application of the same to the cases sent up by this Department, for the presumed better working of which only the new law was, I believe, particularly intended; and thus may eventually ensue all those technical objections and difficulties that have hitherto so much impeded the efficiency of this Agency in the performance of its special duties, to contravene which difficulties it was, that, as communicated in paragraph 10 of the Deputy Secretary's letter to my address No. 1203, under date 15th June 1853, "an application was made to the Government of India to render the evidence of approvers admissible as evidence in Sessions Courts."

5. In my letter to which the above was a reply (No. 61, dated 6th May 1853), I recapitulated (paragraphs 27 to 30) the various decisions of the Court of Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut in annulling the convictions of the Dharwar Sessions Court in the cases of the Dacoits that had been sent up for trial from this Office.

6. In one of those decisions, it was declared by the Superior Court (in the case of Elloo, son of Hybuttee, who had been sentenced to transportation for life), "that though impressions produced by circumstances strengthened the evidence of an approver, and such evidence would sustain a conviction, yet the circumstances themselves must be in evidence connecting the alleged criminal with the crime charged; and as the circumstances were in the

writing of the approvers' narratives, these could not, under the law of evidence, be received"; and I would submit for consideration whether, by the enactment of the proposed law, any security would become established against any similar course of argument being advanced in future decisions?

7. For the vitality of the Department is essentially circumscribed by the validity or force of such a line of reasoning, if valid, and not to be controverted; approvers' narratives forming the staff and strength of its constitution and system.

8. In my subsequent letters, as noted in the margin, to the address of Mr. Secretary Lumsden, I reported that the Judges of the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut had, without any reference, I believe, as I stated, to the provisions of Act XIX. of 1837, which declared a convicted criminal to be a competent witness at any stage of a trial, in like manner annulled the convictions and sentences in the cases of thirty-two other Dacoits, who had also been one and all convicted by the Session Judge of Dharwar, on the charges upon which they had been committed to his Court by me; and I would be permitted to adduce as a point in support of what I have commenced with saying,—viz. that the view taken by the lower Court in accepting the evidence of an accomplice or approver, even under the operation of the new Act, may not be the same as that which may finally be adopted by the Superior Court in deciding upon a case,—that the Judge by whom the above convictions were arrived at formed a member of the Court by which the same were eventually annulled.

No. 69, dated 1st June 1853; and No. 120, dated 5th September 1853.

9. The above parties have, as well as others previously similarly acquitted by the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut, since been tried again upon fresh charges, and have been now a second time convicted in the Court of the Political Agent Southern Muratha Country; and it is to obviate any future necessity for such new trials, attended with much expense to Government, and with serious obstructions to the good and efficient working of this Department, that I most respectfully would urge upon the consideration of Government, that any new law should, in as many words, comprehend and declare what by it may be particularly intended to be conveyed and provided for,—by which, once for all, to disarm every objection that might otherwise be raised, on technical grounds, to the measures the Supreme Government has in its wisdom considered proper to adopt for the suppression of such extraordinary criminals as Thugs, Dacoits, Poisoners, and professional Cheats and Robbers, whose efforts have ever been *to render null the evidence that would be sufficient for their conviction in the Courts of law according to ordinary procedure;* and by whose unchecked prosperity as wrong-doers the peaceable subjects of Government have everywhere in India been ever great sufferers in life as well as in property.

10. I have therefore the honour to submit to the notice of Government, for transmission to the Government of India in its future deliberations on the subject under review, the annexed draft of the amendment I would respectfully propose for adoption, as the Officer most concerned in the operation, under the Bombay Presidency, of any new enactment having reference to the future better efficiency of the means at my disposal for the performance of the duties upon which I am especially employed within its territories.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. Hervey, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

*Assistant General Superintendent's Office, Belgaum, 22nd April* 1854.

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*DRAFT OF AN ACT for the better Prevention of the Crimes of Thuggee, Dacoity, &c. in the Territories comprehended under the Bombay Presidency.*

Whereas, the degree of credit to be given to the evidence of an accomplice ought in every case to be left to the determination of the Court or Officer whose duty it is to decide the case; it is enacted as follows:—

Clause 2, Section XXXV. Regulation XII. of 1827, of the Bombay Code, is hereby repealed.

And whereas, it is necessary to facilitate the suppression of the crimes comprehended and pointed at in Acts XXX. of 1836, XVIII. of 1837, XVIII. of 1839, XXIV. of 1843, III. of 1848, XI. of 1848, and XXIX. of 1850; as well as to extend the provisions of Act XIX. of 1837: it is hereby further enacted, that the evidence of two or more approvers, being Thugs, or Dacoits, or robbers, belonging to any wandering gang of persons associated for the purposes of theft or robbery, or poisoning Thugs, or persons who administer deleterious drugs for the purpose of perpetrating robbery, shall be considered to be evidence sufficient for the purposes of conviction, on the Court or Officer whose duty it is to decide the case being satisfied that there has not been any collusion among the said approvers.

(Signed) C. Hervey, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

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# C.

*EXTRACT Paragraphs* 18, 19, *and* 20 *from a GENERAL REPORT from CAPTAIN C. HERVEY, Assistant General Superintendent, to the address of the General Superintendent of the Operations for the Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity, No.* 14, *dated* 22*nd January* 1856.

Base Money Coiners.

18. The crime of coining and uttering base monies I have frequently had the honour to submit to your notice in the several reports to the Government of Bombay* forwarded by me for your information. It continues to be very extensively practised throughout the territories under this Presidency, particularly by a class of people described in those reports and styled 'Chapah Bunds,' travelling about in the garb of religious mendicants, who conceal the false coins in a very ingeniously contrived pocket, their possession of which has led to the detection of several of these criminals. They are located principally in the valley of the river Krishna, round about Chimulgee, a town in the territory of the Shetbal Raja, and in the Mungolee and Moodebehal Talookas of the Sholapore Collectorate. Some of them have exhibited before me their method of coining spurious money, and how they contrive to pass it off without detection; but they are often detected; and, as the nature of their vocation is well known among their neighbours, when absent upon their periodical expeditions, and as, moreover, the punishments awarded them have, under the law under which the crime is recognised, been ever small, they have seldom, when brought before me, held back their confessions, which have from time to time been furnished by me to the Bombay Government.

Locale of Base Money Coiners in the Bombay Presidency.

19. These false money coiners, known to us as 'Khootsoorryas,' or 'Kullubsazees,' exist, I believe, throughout India; and although in various districts they may vary in castes, their mode of coining is, on the whole, essentially the same everywhere. The suppression of them does not, however, appertain to our Department.

Their existence throughout India.

20. While on the duty of the Department lately in the Punjaub, I found the crime to prevail so much there, that I was quite astonished to see the mutilated condition of

Their existence in the Punjaub.

* Vide Vol. II. of Selections from the Records of Government in the Police Branch of the Judicial Department; the compilation in which has, however, been printed in an incomplete form.—C. H.

the Honorable Company's Rupees current in that country, from the tests to which every piece of money had been put by the wary: and so clever are the men, mostly Hindoos, who practise this crime in that province, that they contrive to pass off, with remarkable success, representations even of Bactrian and other ancient coins found in those regions, to even, as I have been informed, the cleverest of numismatists.

(True extract)

(Signed) C. Hervey, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

# PAPERS ON THE SUBJECT OF CONFESSIONS.

No. 178 of 1851.

Dacoity Department.

From Captain C. Hervey,
Assistant General Superintendent,

To W. Dowdeswell, Esq.,
Session Judge, Masulipatam.

*Dated Belgaum, 13th November* 1851.

Sir,—I have the honour, with reference to your letter No. 606, dated 18th September last, to forward herewith translated extracts from the narratives of the Bhat or Sansiah Dacoits named Kunkia Naik, Himtya, Bhunsee, Bhow, and Grassia Naik, relating to several occasions of attacks upon treasuries and other charges under guards of sepoys of the line.*

2. It happens that not any of the parties named in your letter are with me; but their statements on the points you inquire about have been called for, and will be submitted when furnished. In the mean time, the present documents will serve to show you that it is unusual for these Dacoits, and indeed for any other classes of professional robbers pursuing any particular system, as each tribe of the fraternity does, to permit themselves to be assisted by any one not of their body,—it would manifestly destroy the secrecy of their enterprizes to do so; and I have not a single instance before me of the numerous gang robberies I have in the course of my duties investigated, when the deed of professional Dacoits, in which any foreign aid has been sought for, or even required.†

* These extracts may be seen at pages 71 to 79 of Vol. I. of Selections from the Records of the Government of Bombay in the Police Branch of the Judicial Department.

† May 1858.—I must exclude the instance of a well known dacoity committed at Butgeerah (Dharwar) in 1851 (vide Dacoity No. 39, page 89), in which the dacoits were assisted by some Shetsundees and other village parties; also a robbery at Sirshyal (Sholapore) in 1841 (vide Dacoity No. 33, described at page 86), which was induced by the Police Patel of that place;

3. On all occasions, however, I have perceived *that the idea of some such assistance having necessarily been afforded by local parties*, has been the natural consequence of a disbelief of any but persons residing at or in the neighbourhood of the locality being able to perpetrate acts requiring so much local information. This has arisen from it *hitherto being little thought that there could be any organised bands of depredators plundering so far from their homes* as the Dacoits under inquiry have been shown to do, having no other means of livelihood but by robbery. Failing, therefore, in looking *to any distance from the scene of a robbery*, it has always been a habit—perhaps an excusable one, considering the general suspicious character of those who have suddenly been injured without apparent cause—to attribute the deed to some act of enmity or conspiracy on the part of some one *thought to have borne an ill will against them.* Hence feuds, conspiracies, &c. on the part of relatives, or of enemies, have been perseveringly evoked as the cause of such acts as those under inquiry, and have led, in more instances than that of the attack upon the Talooka treasury at Ellore, to suspicion being unjustly attached to innocent persons; *never* (I venture to speak within the range only of my own experience) *to parties out of the immediate circle of those with whom the plundered family, or the local Police, may be acquainted.* The mind is perplexed to discover who could have been the ruffians, and the outrage, consequently, is at once laid to enmity; and the Police, at a loss in rendering a good account of their vigilance and efficiency to their immediate superiors, *are too ready to catch at the suspicion*, and, unhappily, often too successful in extorting some confession or approach to a confession on the part of some one or other who *may be unfortunate enough to be included among the supposed inimical persons.*

4. Such confessions, however, as I may be permitted to suggest in the case under inquiry, are easily discovered to be spurious, by comparison with the circumstances of a robbery *as it actually took place.* To be genuine, they should correspond, *in all they comprise*, with some of the facts of the outrage. For it is a marked feature of a forced confession, *that it seldom contains any connected account of what happened on the occasion*, however cleverly some of its leading facts may be touched upon. And such may be found to be the case in the present instance,—particularly if the statement of the approver Kunkia be also considered at the same time.

5. It has been urged in defence of the conviction of the men who were punished for the attack upon the treasury at Ellore, that it was difficult to believe *that so small a gang as of twelve persons could venture to attack a guard*

and another at Chandkowta (Sholapore), which was brought about by a revengeful son for the murder of his father's mistress (vide Dacoity No. 29, page 84); the dacoity at Ghorebunder, in the Northern Konkun (No. 10, page 73), may also be an exception.—C. H.

*of a Naique and six Sepoys from the regular troops!* and the papers now furnished have been prepared for the purpose of showing *how little these Dacoits have cared for such guards when bent upon their bold design of obtaining a booty wherever marked down by their leaders.* And if it will be considered, the general listless state of the population of a town or village, whether guards or inhabitants, at the hour that has been so well chosen by the Sansiah Dacoits (the most desperate of all classes of professional robbers throughout India) as that at which they invariably commit a robbery, *namely close upon nightfall,* it will readily be apprehended, that the account rendered by the old man Bhow is very consistent with general fact.

6. I have to repeat my regrets at not earlier having been able to furnish you with a reply to your letter.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. HERVEY, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

*Assistant General Superintendent's Office, Belgaum,* 13*th November* 1851.

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*EXTRACT Paragraph* 6 *from a LETTER from CAPTAIN C. HERVEY, Assistant General Superintendent, to Mr. J. D. INVERARITY, Magistrate of Belgaum, No.* 128, *dated* 24*th July* 1852.

6. I have now had so many instances before me of confessions stated to be made in the districts, as to gang robberies, any one of the circumstances attending which, *such as could only be known to the actual robbers,* has so seldom been mentioned by the alleged confessing parties, that I venture to lay before you a letter on this subject, No. 178, dated 13th November 1851, I lately addressed, in another similar instance as the present, to the Session Judge of Masulipatam, as perhaps pertinent to the present inquiry; and to my suggestion in it, I would beg to add, that, in like manner, it should not always be regarded as a proof of guilt, the fact of some portions of the property plundered by the Dacoits *having been found in the possession of the suspected parties;* it being a part of the system of professional Dacoits to throw down portions of the booty here and there, *with the very view to suspicion being attached to those who might be heedless enough to pick up and appropriate the same;* and to this is to be attributed much of the impunity they themselves have hitherto experienced.

*EXTRACT Paragraphs* 7 *to* 13 *from a LETTER from CAPTAIN C. HERVEY, Assistant General Superintendent, to Mr. J. D. INVERARITY, Magistrate of Belgaum, No.* 173, *dated* 22*nd October* 1852.

7. I would solicit particular attention to my proceedings in the Appendices marked A and B, in which I have noted carefully the grounds for believing that the Têlee (oilman) upon whose house this gang robbery was committed, and the other members of his family, also the Police of ———, perjured themselves throughout, and that the confessions alleged to have been made by three of the five convicted parties were unreal and *made up;* of which they will be seen to bear unmistakeable proofs, when compared with each other, with the evidence with respect to those three men, and with the circumstances of the robbery itself; and that, therefore, there resulted serious cause for apprehending that the confessions were, in fact, extorted from them, as they declared to have been the case, as well to the Second Assistant Magistrate as to the Session Judge, at the time of their trial.

8. These confessions, equally with the evidence of the Têlee, and of the other indicated parties, will be found to contain inconsistencies with truth and contradictions; and if it be an acknowledged principle, that the whole of a confession should be given in evidence, that the whole account a party gives of a transaction should be taken together, and a fact disadvantageous to himself should not be received to the exclusion of facts favourable to him, it would seem fairly to follow, that if a person's alleged confession, on the whole, *embraces only the outward and publicly well known features of a transaction,* but is eminently wide of truth when entering into details, and remarkably at variance with the evidence given in the case with respect to those very details and to his own part in the transaction, *such circumstances should be considered as facts favourable to the accused,* inasmuch as that they prove a want of corroboration *aliunde* in his account of himself—I allude particularly to the confessions under inquiry; and must leave it to be considered, from a perusal of these documents, to what extent I am justified in the remark.

9. Independent, however, of such a consideration, it appears clear, that if the gang robbery at ——— was the act of the Dacoits in my custody, there arises direct evidence of the falsehood of the confessions, and of the innocence of the convicted parties; and, consequently, further proof of the base part played by the Têlee, and of the bias his conduct had upon the evidence of his wife and uncle, leading them into the contradictions and malversations in which they, as well as himself and the Police Patel, have now been detected.

10. I would venture to bring to your recollection the case of the dacoity at Gokak, in February 1846*—how nearly similar conduct on the side of the plundered parties brought an innocent person to condign punishment. On proofs adduced from this Office, of that outrage having been the act of Dacoits from Hindoostan then in my custody, the accused man prosecuted those parties, and the result was *their conviction and sentence to fines and various periods of imprisonment.* It had been my endeavour to dissuade him from proceeding against them,† and rather to remain satisfied with the establishment of his own innocence. The emphatic reply was,—*They would have had him hanged had they succeeded in establishing their accusation against him!* And I adduce that circumstance as an example of the present case, that under the law on which all the arraigned parties, ten in number, were committed for trial, they were liable to the extreme penalty prescribed therein for an offence of such a nature.

11. So serious, then, might have been the result of the trial, that I submit for consideration whether, upon the issue of the present inquiry, the Têlee and his family should not, as a public example, be driven with ignominy from their present village, the punished parties restored to it with marked consideration, and the Police Patel and the members of the Police, mentioned in the convict ———'s confession, deprived of place and employment, and the Police Patel himself heavily fined.

12. I am led to this suggestion, because, even with the encouragement I have been honoured with by Government to use my utmost endeavour in such cases, to enable it to make every reparation to parties who may have been wrongfully punished, and with every consciousness of the duty being a laudable one, I find myself drawn into these inquiries very unwillingly; and I would, therefore, have it felt, that it is not in vain that the misconduct of the Native Police is inquired into and brought to light, when so calculated, as it was in the present case, to mislead and misdirect their European superiors.

13. My part in bringing to light such transactions, arising out of the nature of the duties with which I have been publicly entrusted, naturally places me, I feel, in an invidious position. Over that—from the manner in which such acts are discovered to have been the deed of professional Dacoits, deposed to as they become, by the approvers, *not with any especial reference to any one particular act of crime, but elicited in the course of the examination to which they are subjected with the view to ascertaining the number and nature of those they may have committed at different periods during their career*—I am satisfied it will be perceived that I have myself no control. But the question arises, to

* Vide Dacoity No. 56, page 100.

† They were his uncles.

what extent may not such instances as the present of the conviction of innocent persons become multiplied, and how check for the future all chance of any recurrence of such convictions? With respect to the latter, it may occur to Government, that its sense towards the parties through whose agency false witness has been borne, and evidence suborned, when so palpable as in the present instance, should be summarily marked, as the most effectual means of deterring others; and with respect to the former, it is a matter beyond conjecture, and I must trust to continued support in the performance of a duty of so unpleasant a nature.

(True extracts)

(Signed) C. Hervey, Brevet Major,
Assistant General Superintendent.

# REPORTS

ON THE

# WANDERING TRIBES

OF THE

# BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

# WANDERING TRIBES.

No. 114 of 1848.

From Captain C. Hervey,
Assistant General Superintendent,

To J. G. Lumsden, Esq.,
Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Bombay.

*Dated Belgaum, 23rd November* 1848.

Sir,—I have the honour to reply to your letter No. 3333, dated 9th September, on the subject of placing restrictions on the vagrant tribes infesting the Southern Muratha Country.

2. The colonisation of persons hitherto free and unrestrained wanderers, homeless, free to do and doing as their inclinations prompt or necessity compels them, with a view to withdraw them from such a state of wildness, and to make them members of a general community of settled and peaceful occupations, is worthy any attention Government can bestow; but as a question of sound social policy, desirable for their sakes, and congenial with our national sentiments as to a kind and generous supervision of the people we govern, the subject is of such importance, that no incidental reasoning or suggestions ought to lead us into a purpose, which in all its considerations must, *practically*, be most difficult of attainment.

3. The *habits* of the people to be modelled might be the first consideration; whether the adaptation thereof *to the customs of the society among whom they are to be placed* may be reconciled naturally; or whether they are not of such a nature, or peculiarity, as might render any attempt at their reformation, because inconsistent with the idiosyncracy of those people, a vain thing in its results.

4. It is reasonable that, where the people, though wild and unrestricted, are simple and honest; or, though predatory, do not form a distinct race, gradually to reclaim them, and induce them to mix with their fellow creatures, and at length to become settlers, may be accomplished; particularly when

the spread of civilisation, and, through it, the absorption of the land, and the measures by which it has been apportioned to the inhabitants of the towns and villages of the country over which the tribes were accustomed to wander, render their means of livelihood precarious, and reduce their wanderings into trespasses.

5. But when the habits *are predatory and lawless*, such as those of the tribes immediately under reference are asserted to be, and the people composing them at the same time consist of distinct and peculiar races of men, I beg respectfully to state, the possibility of settling such persons in agricultural districts must be a matter far more difficult of accomplishment.

6. The tribes of vagrants frequenting the Deccan—which they have done always, for there has been no new inroad on their parts fresher than our own occupation of India—have been, and I believe still are, for the most part, *thieves and robbers by hereditary profession.* The many facilities for plundering that offered under former rulers caused theft and rapine to become inherent in their disposition,—from their own unsettled habits of seeking for subsistence wherever, perchance, it could be obtained.

7. These facilities were the consequence of the peculiar constitution of the society of the *permanent* inhabitants of the land,—whose attention was so much taken up in aggrandisement and aggression, in local feuds, or in serving the Chiefs of whom they might at the time be the partisans, that there could not exist among them any general league for the suppression of persons who, without taking any part in their affairs, were able to take advantage of the general consternation and apathy that ensued, and thus easily to prey upon and to despoil them.

8. Such a state of things has passed away. The same facility for plundering is, however, stated to exist; and its continuance may perhaps be traceable to the predisposition to rob, where such from habit has become the only method of livelihood; and to the continued unsupervised condition of districts having extensive waste lands that form the haunts of the depredators.

9. Regarding them merely as a set of rapacious vagabonds, eking out so precarious an existence as by robbery, and living from hand to mouth, the belief is readily entertained, that it cannot be a matter of much difficulty to restrain them in the present day, by locating them in colonies; and it has been produced as an instance, that a large body of *Pindarees* was so located some time back at Dharwar, with the greatest success, who have settled down into peaceable people, evincing no disposition to return to their former predatory habits.

10. But the Pindarees were not essentially wanderers: they had fixed settlements, where they were permitted for the most part to remain unmolested, as often answering the purposes, as mercenaries, of the neighbouring large

States that were continually at war with each other; and because, if actuated by revenge for any interference by any of the contending parties, they became a formidable aid to the opposite side. From these settlements (on the other side of the Nerbudda), they would sally forth in hordes, plunder and devastate the countries they would visit, and return with their booty to their abodes; where, from the gigantic power their Chiefs obtained, the dread of making any movement against them, and the treaties with them on the part of the neighbouring States to exempt these from their terrible visitations, by formally making over to them certain districts, they might speedily, from a robber confederacy, have been converted into a regular State.

11. As do the *Lumbanees*, and the other nomade tribes under reference, the Pindarees formed not any peculiar tribe or people. As before observed regarding these people in a former report,* they were bandits, composed of the refuse and scum of the land, of every denomination and creed, associated together for the sake of plunder; they had not any peculiar social institutions; no particular language not understood by any other people; *Pindaree* was merely *their name;* mean and arrant cowards, with not one redeeming virtue either in woman or in man, they flocked and congregated together with impunity in villanous combination, their safety in their host, and their savage cruelties a dread shield in their defence.

12. When these miscreants were suppressed by the vigorous measures of the British Government, when expelled from their homes, their confederacy broken up, and their Chiefs gone, they could not possibly, under their circumstances, keep up any peculiarity *as a people* that was not theirs essentially! They therefore easily settled in families, where large towns offered them a means of subsistence, by their hiring out themselves as conveyers, by means of their tattoos or ponies, of baggage and merchandise during the fine season, or of firewood during the rains; their own extraordinary endurance of the fatigues of long marches, to which they had become habituated by their former active lives, and the sturdiness of the above little animals, making this occupation to accord the best with their inclinations. They are to be met with in nearly every city or large town in the Deccan; for although, as has been observed, a large body was invited to settle at Dharwar, similar parties have been led to do so of themselves in other places.

13. The tribes under reference, and the Lumbanees particularly, must, however, be otherwise considered; and it is the peculiar feature they present *as unmixed races*, preserving with the greatest jealousy their individuality, that should be well marked in contrasting them with other people.

14. The Lumbanees forming the most numerous of any of the wandering classes visiting this side of India, and their acts of depredation being, I

* A Report on the Darakurrees, or mounted highwaymen, dated September 1844.

believe, more frequent than on the part of any others in these districts, they, I apprehend, must be more particularly alluded to by the Judicial Commissioner Southern Muratha Country.

15. They are more commonly known by the name of *Brinjaras*, whose chief ostensible occupation is to convey grain and salt to distant parts of the country, for which purpose they keep up a large quantity of bullocks.

16. Salt, as an article of such general consumption, being in such constant demand, and procurable only from the sea coast, these people, being the principal importers thereof, have continually to pass over, in most instances, large tracts of country; and, from the time occupied in the journey, they become lost sight of, for a period, to those by whom they have been hired. As their convoys on such occasions, or if on any other errand, move steadily along the country, their progress does not excite any particular attention on the part of the inhabitants; and as, on coming up to their ground in small parties at different times (which they do purposely, to make it a tedious matter to muster them), they invariably halt for the night on the open plain at a distance from, though in the neighbourhood of, some village, and are generally gone by daylight, but little inquiry is made concerning them by the village authorities. Their numbers are not questioned, and beyond, perhaps, sometimes a passing question as to their destination, or from whence they have come, on the part of some irresponsible person who may have met the train,—when some very distant and to him unknown places are vaguely given in reply,—they come under no other notice whatever; and, as is oftentimes the case, will even reach the coast, or wherever their destination, without having created any remark, or caused any precautionary measure on the part of any of the authorities of the country through which they may have journeyed, whether for salt or any other purpose. And, consequently, every facility is offered to these people to dissemble, or to cloak any dishonest design. Thus, while the old men and women proceed steadily with the train, a party of able-bodied men strike off during the night, or as opportunity may offer, to some distant place previously fixed upon, rapidly perpetrate a robbery there, and rejoin the main convoy during its straggling march of the following day; the number of persons of which it was composed not having been ascertained, any reference to the authorities along the direct march of these people, on the part of the Police where an outrage has meanwhile been committed as above, being of no avail,—the answers serving rather to screen the offenders than otherwise. For on such occasions, the tact of the Naiks or leaders is such, that a reference to the Police along the right line of their progress invariably convinces *that no deviation could possibly have taken place.* Thus the real offenders pass unmolested along, while many other men become accused, confined, are sent from Kutcheree to Kutcheree, and very ill used.

17. Many, again, are cattle-stealers. Some sections of the tribe deal in cattle, stolen no doubt, with immense droves of which they are often to be met, when the same facilities are presented for robbing and evading detection. Of these cattle-dealers several 'tandas' have but very recently passed into the Southern Muratha Country from Khandeish. Others kidnap children; a part coin false money; and some are Thugs. In short, they are everything that opportunity will permit them to be.

18. They form, however, a distinct race of beings, and are remarkable. Their quaint aspect and physiognomy must often have occasioned remark on the part of an European observer; the intelligent countenances, and wiry strongly-knitted frames of the men, but ill according with their mean and scanty dress; while the fantastical party-coloured costume of the women, their arms, generally from shoulder to wrist completely encased in bracelets made of bone or ivory, or of a particular kind of wood, shells and coins curiously strung together round their necks, and hair ornamented in like manner,—give a strange flighty appearance to the natural wild air of their always expressive and sometimes good-looking faces.

19. Except that, owing to the circumstances of the different countries, their occupations may vary, I think these Lumbanees are very much to be compared with the Gipsies of Europe. I have never yet been able to learn from any of them as to their real origin; they do not seem to be aware of any circumstance from which they can date it, stating that they have always from generation to generation been 'khana-buh-dosh,' ('house to back'—*i. e.* of no fixed homes). Their marriage and other ceremonies differ from other peoples'. Their notions are odd; their religion undefined; they have a peculiar dialect, understood only among themselves, though generally they can fluently talk the language of each tract they visit; they do not intermarry with other people; they live in no fixed abodes, though they will often have their tandas or encampments in a single neighbourhood for a long time together; they note the stars, take omens, and rigidly observe them; and their singular women would scarcely seem to belong to such men, from their very dissimilar appearance; but whose quaint dresses cannot be attributed to any vanity on their parts, but rather as an index of the tendency of their minds, exhibiting a wildness of air in harmony with the real condition of their habits and feelings. As good wives and true, they are as remarkable as the Pindaree females were otherwise.

20. The *Kaikarees*,* again, form another distinct race of people, of similar

* Captain Hervey's report of the habits of Kaikarees as gang robbers (Dacoits) was not written till the following year; it is the leading document in Vol. I. of Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government in the Police Branch of the Judicial Department.

peculiarities; but they are chiefly basket-makers, and they also wander about with their families from place to place, and acquire, consequently, for reasons already given, the same opportunities for committing theft, though not often visitors of the Southern Muratha Country.

21. The *Wuddurs*, another tribe, are diggers of wells and excavators generally: they assist in raising the mud walls of houses, and work in quarries; and in search of such occupations, they too roam about, and are thieves. Two or three Wuddurs are frequently to be found concerned in every common gang robbery in certain Talookas. But I am not aware of any peculiarity in them, *except that they eat field rats*, which, *and village pigs roasted entire*, they consider great delicacies. They are, though very useful, a low race of men; and perhaps of no consequence in the present consideration.

22. *Pardhees* are a class of people who snare game, in quest of which they wander from jungle to jungle with their wives and children. Their women beg, and they are a miserable, half-starved people; and I think may also be excluded from the subject.

23. There are also wandering minstrels; professional mendicants; persons called *Teen-namahs;* venders of drugs, styled *Golhas;* showmen; bird-catchers from the Madras Coast, &c. &c.*; all of whom no doubt, more or less, are thieves, but who deserve no particular notice; for, travelling as they do from town to town, they certainly ought not to escape the observation of the local Police.

24. The *Bedurs*, again, are another numerous class of people who are expert burglars (*Khanchôrs*). They travel to a great distance where to commit a robbery; but for the most part *they reside in villages*, and in the Belgaum Zilla have settled principally in the Padshapoor Talooka; and at Deshnoor, Hoogurtee, and Gujjumhall, in that of Sumpgaum; so that they may not be included in the present classification, though they have migrated from the Shorapoor Bedur province, of which they form the chief population.

25. It remains, therefore, to consider the question of putting down those erratic tribes who prey the most upon the inhabitants of these districts; and it is proposed to place a stricter surveillance over them, or to locate them permanently in our districts.

26. With regard to the latter object, it is plain that while such people continue united in colonies, and adhere to their peculiar habits and customs of intermarriage, &c., and retain their exclusive language, they must continue to be very troublesome races among inhabitants so constituted as are those of our districts, who rely so much on the care for them by the Sirkar without doing anything for themselves; generally, except immediately interested in the result,

* "Ambubaiarum collegia, pharmacopolæ, mendici, mimæ, balatrones, hoc genus omne."

not even caring to assist the exertions of the local Police: so unlike the rural populations of other countries, *such colonies would continue to prey upon their neighbours*; and evil must result from any attempt to reclaim them in such a manner, and endless trouble ensue.

27. A more rigid surveillance over these "*Rôdeurs*" on the part of the Police would appear to me, therefore, to be the best, and, under present circumstances, *the least irksome alternative*. The law provides for requisitions for security on the part of district Magistrates, from persons of a suspicious character; but, unfortunately, such measures often get nullified, owing to some informality or point of technicality, as brought to notice in the appeals made to the superior Court on such occasions, induced, as these so often are, by the accommodating ways of Vakeels or other Native agents about our courts of justice, who, understanding our constitutional tenacity on the subject, take the opportunity to lay great stress upon any undue restrictions on "the liberty of the subject," when probably the alleged oppressive acts have been but measures of precaution on the part of a watchful Magistrate, against persons possessing, perhaps, an irrational liberty.

28. When, from the circumstances of the common apathetic habits of the people of our districts; the venality and general inefficiency of the Police; the present, though I believe amending, paucity of the bulk of the population, compared to the extent of the country inhabited; their consequent small means for cultivating the land, from frequent poverty in time of any scarcity; the fact is notorious, from experience, that most of the robberies and other acts of plunder that take place may be traced to the unlicensed liberty the people under consideration are permitted to enjoy, the discretion of a Magistrate must be considered small indeed, if he cannot be permitted to exercise a latitude of power in placing just restrictions over them,—a power that may not, perhaps, be distinguished in *the very letter* of regulations so admirably framed for the maintenance of order with a due regard to the well-known great principle of a proper liberty of the subject in the ordinary jurisdiction of our territories, but on the whole certainly implied *in the spirit* of those laws, and often assumed in extraordinary cases, with a view to the proper protection of that portion of the community, who, residing permanently in districts, tilling the land, and paying all dues and the demands of Government, are indeed subjects who have, beyond all others, the best claim to protection, by whatever means extended, against the violent acts of the unbridled men of whom they are the helpless victims.

29. A greater discretionary power allowed to Magistrates; the compelling all bodies of wanderers, when appearing in any Talooka, to furnish good securities *in money*, or to suffer detention, or to depart the way they came;

naming in each district certain villages and towns, where the Police may be tolerably good, at some one of which each tanda must be made to encamp, if purposing to remain any certain time within it, which they must declare, or suffer detention in default of security, or be made to depart as above; and the attaching, the while, an intelligent peon to each tanda, *to be subsisted by it;* giving notice to the neighbouring Police into whose charge it may be about to pass when leaving a district; mustering the men of the tanda, and, in the absence of any man by nightfall or at dawn, exacting from it the amount of any robbery that may have been committed during the night anywhere within eighteen miles off from the encampment, except it points out the thieves; intimating forthwith to the several local Police Authorities the arrival within the district of all such people; mentioning, at the same time, the strength of the tanda, and the name of the Naik thereof,—would, I respectfully suggest, be remedial measures, of a precautionary nature, altogether necessary for restraining the present predatory habits of these people; and preferable to permanently locating them in colonies, unless they can be forced, by pressure, to blend with the rest of the community, forego their distinctions as any peculiar race, and earn their livelihood, like other men, by honest industry; to enforce which, *unless they were all convicted robbers,* might not only be justly considered a very great violation of the principles of freedom, and an interference with the prejudices of caste, but even, if enforced, would, as impelling a very difficult people to civilisation, require such continued efforts, and sustained zeal and vigilance, during successive generations, as to become, because nearly impracticable, a work almost of supererogation.

30. As to the rest, though I regret the serious check I lately experienced in the commencement I made against that portion of the Lumbanee tribe who I believed to be in the habit of extending its incursions into these districts from over the border, the gradual suppression of these people as professional and hereditary robbers will probably be effected under the operation of the Dacoity Act, and of Act XI. of 1848, lately framed—when the leaders and principal members of their gangs, when conditionally pardoned, may always be employed with confidence in Police duties, and in other establishments, as public servants.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. Hervey, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

*Assistant General Superintendent's Office, Belgaum, 23rd November* 1848.

No. 90.

DACOITY DEPARTMENT.

To J. G. LUMSDEN, Esq.,
Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date 30th March last, No. 1677, and accompaniments, in which I am desired to state what, in my opinion, are the measures best calculated to protect the rural districts of this Presidency against the predatory habits of the wandering tribes.

2. Believing that the evil complained of may be traced, in the first place, to the peculiar composition of the people of the districts in which these wandering tribes have been accustomed to roam; who, formed of incongruous masses of men of opposite natures and different habits, have never been able to enter into any general league for their mutual protection; also that its prevalence may, in a great measure, be consequently laid *to the Police** as hitherto constituted, consisting, as it mainly does, of a body of men, again, quite different from the people it is intended to protect, without any decided superiority in character, and, therefore, from its seldom *representing*† the latter, inadequate in real fact for their thorough protection,—both being without any cordiality between them,—I am, on the whole, disposed to regard that less as criminal on the part of the tribes under inquiry which, in its causes, may, without fear of the imputation of being too considerate, be fairly looked upon rather as unfortunate in persons often treated with too little consideration, because universally believed to be what they not always are.

3. The people under inquiry, according to all accepted traditions, were originally stragglers from the mass of the first settlers of other countries;—cut off from all intercourse with whom, and, because of their restless habits, meeting with no communion with the regular inhabitants of the regions they visited,

* This report was written before the Police of the districts (Bombay) had been based on its present efficient footing.—(May 1858.)—C. H.

† I have made use of this expression with reference to what I have before alluded to in my two last Annual Reports, viz. that the Police in most districts do not accord, in their own training and habits, with the people they are set to watch over, who often vary in character, according to the features of the tracts they inhabit. The Konkun has been produced by me as an example, of which the Police totally differ from the inhabitants; and I may take the liberty of adducing, in further explanation of my meaning, the instance that lately presented at home, where, on the occasion of the late National Exhibition, it was found necessary, for the prevention and detection of crime on the part of strangers in the crowded metropolis, to employ policemen from their respective countries, as the best able to cope with the criminals thereof. The Shetsundee establishment lately introduced in the Belgaum Zilla nearly approaches what is required very much everywhere.

they easily lost all the civilising influences of their original homes, and merged, as generation succeeded generation—any settled habits having ceased with their earliest migrations—into races of wanderers, only differing from each other according to the stock from which each originally strayed, and according as the circumstances of the countries they found themselves in, and as productive employment, or its want, and the difficulty of subsistence, may have combined towards the formation and final development of the habits by which each are now distinguished.

4. While all, therefore, became confirmed wanderers, only those would have adopted predatory habits, where either their own limited resources, and the want of union in the inhabitants, or the example these themselves set under no regular government, offered temptations to plunder, or opposed no discouragement to the lawless;—the success met with in the first exploits of violence, or failure, establishing the different degrees of boldness in and adherence to such pursuits; leading the timid or detected to depend more upon their own industry, and the fearless and successful to care less for any honest means of livelihood, while able to obtain it by appropriating what belonged to others; but, at the same time, setting *all* to the adoption of some settled *ostensible* mode of living, by which their honesty *might be presumed*, however precarious to themselves its assumed form, whether real or superficial.

5. Inhibited at the outset from any intercourse with each other, each tribe displayed the same prejudice of caste that distinguished its parent race, and, therefore, would have no sympathy of interests with any other; each steadily pursuing its own course, according to the habits it had been led by the above combination of circumstances to form, and preserving the same distinctions as distinct people that so characterise all eastern races. Thus, the pursuits of one, if unlawful, would be no test of a want of probity in others; nor would it be just, while being assured of the dishonesty of some, to call into question, although vulgarly done, the employments of others, and thus, by a sweeping condemnation, to restrain liberties of which we are ourselves generally so jealous,—a continuance whereof might lead to a course of rectitude, but denied, might, while becoming a punishment not deserved by many, shut out from such as may not be of confirmed evil habits, all opportunities for atonement or amendment.

6. But there is another view of the question, viz. the impolicy of imposing undue restrictions on any people, through deference to a general mistrust only as to their habits; for it is not to be overlooked, that the majority of common opinions are often the least enlightened. For my own part, I believe the whole of the wandering tribes to be very much attached to the British Government—very possibly because of the leniency of laws, under the operation of which so many of them have prospered: but that is no disparagement of our rule,—its justice, and careful avoidance of all chance of confounding the

innocent with the guilty, are the transcendent qualities that make these barbarians so much attached to it, that even the most reckless Dacoit—the man who has never robbed without committing murder—has often, when apprehended, exclaimed to me, that the justice of the Sirkar was sifting and consistent ('Dood ka kurta dood, pani ka pani,'—a favourite expression among these wandering tribes),* and that he had no fear as to his being set at liberty if there were the slightest doubt as to his guilt. So that how much more might we not expect, on the occasion of any necessity, from the favourable temper of those we have protected when really guiltless, and suffering under the general bane of an illiberal suspicion?—a suspicion caused by the seeming mystery that attaches to all their movements, suggesting notions of their guilt, and which cannot be too warily watched and controlled; it being a proneness inseparable from most natures, when suspicion has been excited, to draw inferences therefrom, and to deduce, consequently, from circumstances that might be innocent, criminal pursuits or predilections,—*a Police authority who doubts the existence of truth or honest purposes being seldom ready to sacrifice his imagination to any supposition of his being mistaken.*

7. The object, however, for the present inquiry, is, how to circumscribe the facilities which exist for the perpetration of crime, arising out of any undue license to wander, the tribes under consideration may have acquired; and I have therefore to submit what, under present circumstances, and under the present Police system, would appear to be the best alternative for checking crime on the part of these people; while doing which, it will be necessary not to lose sight of what I have above ventured to lay before you, viz. the distinction between those tribes that, presenting very little difference in appearance from those that should be guarded against, are their prototypes only, inasmuch as regards the similarity of their *real* occupations with what are but only the *ostensible* means of the livelihood of the others.

8. I would beg, however, to submit to your notice, that the subject has already been entered into in my report No. 114, dated 23rd November 1848,† regarding the practicability of colonising these tribes; when, while submitting the objections to permanently locating such people in our agricultural districts, I ventured to propose (paragraphs 28 to 30) the measures it appeared to me were calculated to protect these from their violence; namely while recognising

* Meaning literally that, with us, "milk we keep to be milk, and water, water"—not taking one for the other,—*i. e.* not confounding the good with the bad; no admixture; black not white, nor white black. The expression is often used by a prisoner at the bar, by way of exhortation to the Magistrate or Judge, *to judge properly;* but like as Thugs are known to each other by their language, may a Dacoit be often discovered simply by the use of the above phrase, it being peculiar to the profession.—C. H.

† Vide the preceding letter.

their license to wander wherever they chose, as long as they remained peaceable, or had honest means of livelihood, which many undoubtedly have, to limit the wandering of all others, who from being dishonest, would feel such a check, and the prevention caused by it in following their more questionable occupations,—for each predatory tribe has its ostensible and its real occupation; its *exoteric* and its *esoteric* identity; what is meant for the multitude, and what is known only to a few; for honest *all are outwardly;* and only among themselves are their real occupations known.

9. *But the dishonest pretend to be the good,* and these tribes have not been sufficiently studied to be readily or always distinguished from each other; the district Police, even, being as ready to confound the one with the other as anybody else. Hence it is, that, under the general suspicion and distrust with which these people are regarded everywhere, it not unfrequently occurs, that many of them become unjustly served; and the plan, therefore, I took the liberty to suggest, viz. that of placing all such tribes under a general surveillance, *was with the view to cause the least irksome restraint upon those of them who had nothing to fear.* For however suspicious their appearance, the Police would only have to be more on the alert, and greater precautions taken by the inhabitants of a place near which any such vagrants should happen to appear,—just in the same way as the appearance in the neighbourhood of Gipsies would, because of their well known character, lead people at home to look to the hen-roost, or to see that the barn-yard had been properly secured.

10. Having had no reasons for altering the opinion I had formed on the above occasion, I was lately led, under further continued observations of these tribes of wanderers, to again submit to notice my former suggestions; and I therefore ventured in my late Annual Report, No. 52, dated 26th March last, to advert to the subject in paragraph 37,* in which I submitted, that the prevention of much crime might be compassed by the measures therein offered for consideration with reference to my former proposals, which had already met with approval; to which, therefore, and to my former report above alluded to, I would here beg to refer you. For, after an intimate acquaintance with most of the tribes, and continued experience, there appears to me nothing better to offer, being aware that the great object is, to protect the innocent in the pursuit of the guilty, and feeling sure that, according as such checks as proposed by me are imposed,—all operating towards the prevention of crime,—must the men such restrictions most affect or trouble be led, if the system against them be steadily persevered in everywhere, to bethink themselves how else they may exist?—and thus, as I hope, their minds be turned to seeking

* Vide page 44 of vol. I. of Selections from the Records of Government in the Police Branch of the Judicial Department.

honest ways of earning their livelihood, and at length to their no longer experiencing any restlessness under what before, while their conduct had been questionable, they had felt to be restraints.

11. I have therefore to repeat what I concluded with in the report already quoted (No. 114, dated 23rd November 1848), viz. that as for the rest,—that is, as for what may remain to be done against those tribes who have been, and are, professional robbers and thieves,—the same is amply otherwise provided for in the provisions of Acts XXIV. of 1843 and XI. of 1848, under which they can be tried and convicted; for they themselves feel, as many have frequently stated to me, *that while everything had hitherto failed in checking their depredations*, nothing had yet been devised to effect so well that object as the late proceedings against them by this Department under the operation of those Acts, which do not render it necessary for conviction to prove the *possession* of any stolen property, or that the culprits should be identified by *local* parties; by the failure of proofs as to which, they had always succeeded in evading the vengeance of the laws, and had found themselves at liberty to carry on their trade of robbery as often as set at liberty, and as long as permitted to wander about unquestioned.

12. In transmitting, therefore, a list of all the wandering and other predatory tribes, seventy-one in number, with which I am acquainted, with an account of the occupations of each, both ostensible and real, as probably assisting Government in any further consideration of this subject, I have the honour very respectfully to submit, that it will not, it appears to me, lead to any reform in the habits of these people, *to drive them away from Zilla to Zilla*, but that they should rather still be suffered, under the conditions proposed, *to go where they choose*, and be invited, and inducements held out to them, to locate themselves, *if they like to do so;* and that *no interference with their legal pursuits should be attempted;* while, on the other hand, they should be made to know, by some such system of general surveillance as I have been emboldened to offer, that they are under the observation of the Police wherever they may go; and that, if not prevented in committing crime, every means is adopted to detect the offenders, and to punish them with the utmost rigour of the laws that have been especially enacted for their suppression; *any half measures, when the offenders are professional criminals, having always been found to fail in producing any reformation.*

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. Hervey, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

*Assistant General Superintendent's Office, Belgaum, 26th May* 1852.

*A LIST of the WANDERING and other PREDATORY TRIBES in the habit of infesting the Districts of the BOMBAY PRESIDENCY, with their Occupations, both Ostensible and Real.*

1. *Kulkorwees*, i. e. *Ran-Kaikarees*, some of whom occasionally, as long as they remain unsuspected, locate themselves at villages. Ostensibly, they are basket-makers; some will hire and cultivate fields (such particularly are many of those who frequent the Dharwar Zilla), and let themselves out as daily labourers; and are village musicians, &c.; but they are all professional gang robbers and burglars. They are to be found throughout the Deccan, wherein they are styled Kaikarees, but in the Belgaum and Dharwar Zillas, and in the Carnatic, they are known as Kulkorwees; in other places they are differently known and called, according to the country they may visit.

2. *Morikar-Korwees*, or *Poongee-Korwees*, are a branch of the Kulkorwee tribe. Ostensibly, they are jugglers and showmen, and players on blow-gourds ('poongees'), and, under guise as such, they travel about. They subsist by gang robbery and burglary, and by passing base metal for gold. These are altogether vagabonds, and may be found in the Bellary and Dharwar districts. The *real* jugglers are a distinct people, called *Yergôls*, and *Gôllhurs*, residing particularly in the Madras territories; and these are *not* professional thieves, though some of them will occasionally join those by whom they are represented.

3. *Huggul-Kaikya-Korwees*, a section of Korwees, whose women are the thieves, thieving by day in regular gangs, under their respective Jemadarnees, or female leaders. Each gang is provided with a bunch of keys and pick-locks, of various kinds and sizes. They resort to a village, pretending to beg for alms: when any house is observed to have its door locked up in any unfrequented lane, the inmates being gone to their fields, the leader picks open the lock, and enters, while one of her gang stands before the door, enveloped in her saree or dress and a basket upon her head, as though, to any passenger, at the door begging alms; the rest of the gang stand off at different distances. On the Jemadarnee coming out with her booty, she fastens up the door, and the whole quietly decamp. Should any one seem to have any kind of suspicion regarding them, while the leader happens to be within the premises as above, the woman at the door first engages his attention by producing a rupee, or half rupee, pretending to wish to be informed as to whether it is good or bad, and in doing so she purposely gets up an altercation, and then suddenly lays hold of him, and vociferates that he had been insulting her or taking liberties with her; upon which the other women, one by one, run

up and shove him about, and drag him away. The villagers gather round them, and thus, while attention is drawn off from the house in which the Jemadarnee is, she manages to slip out, and to make off with her plunder. Their men are basket-makers, and steal cattle. They perform all the ordinary household duties of the women,—looking after the children, cooking the food, &c. The women also pretend to be fortune-tellers: an old crone will, under such a character, go in the day-time to a house where only a female may be left in charge, and ingratiate herself with her, by pretending to know her history, what troubles her, or such like; what children she will bear, &c. She then requests her to place her 'saree' over her face, and then she breathes upon her eyes, blows into her ears, and mutters some supposed charms; and so on. In the meanwhile, one or two of her associates, who have been lurking close by, step into the house stealthily, and carry off whatever they can readily lay hands upon. After they have gone, the ceremony is pronounced accomplished; the housewife is uncovered, and the old woman departs with a present, leaving the now quite bewildered dupe to ponder upon what she has been told of her destiny—only afterwards to discover that the house has been robbed!

4. *Koonchee-Korwees*, another branch of the Kaikaree tribe: they make brushes for weavers' looms (called 'koonchees,' whence their cognomen). They snare game, and go about with dancing monkeys. They have not as yet been discovered to be thieves, or robbers, except that their women will thieve, if they can; but they will pilfer ears of corn from the fields: on such occasions they are called '*Bhootté-Chors*.'

5. *Oop-Belgar-Korwees*.—These deal in betelnuts, salt, &c., and are carriers. They are not professionally robbers, but will sometimes join the gangs of Kulkorwees and rob with them.

6. *Agadee-Korwees*, or *Koot-Kaikarees*, buy women, and let them out as prostitutes, by which means they subsist. They locate themselves in cities, and in camp bazars. Some of them make and sell baskets and brooms. These, like the last, occasionally join the expeditions of the regular robbers of the tribe.

7. *Wajjuntree-Korwees* reside mostly in villages, where they own fields, &c. They are the *real* village musicians, and not robbers. Occasionally one or two of these are in the secret of the Kulkorwees, and will rob with them.

8. *Lumbanees*, or *Brinjaras*, are sellers of firewood, and carriers, and dealers in grain and salt; they also deal in cattle. Many of them are highway robbers, gang robbers, and cattle-stealers. They do not practise burglary; but sometimes some of them join the Korwees of Canara and Dharwar, in the latter crime. To be found everywhere in the Dharwar and Belgaum Zillas, and about Moondurgee, Copal, Shorapoor Bedur, Beejapoor, and indeed every-

where. Certain branches of this tribe are believed to be professional robbers, under the assumed disguise of those of the tribe who are really carriers, &c., but much has yet to be learnt regarding their habits as robbers. The Assistant General Superintendent has already reported upon them.

9. *Wuddurs* are excavators of quarries, wells, &c., and diggers of earth generally. They sell pickaxes and shovels, and raise mud walls, &c.; but many are entirely robbers, both by night and day,—at day on the highways, and at night in gangs upon houses. They are stated to wound and commit murder on such occasions; some join the Kulkorwees in burglary. But these people have not yet been sufficiently inquired into; for there are entire families of them who subsist by honest livelihood, and live apart from the robber portions of the tribe. They are called *Sunki-Wuddurs* and *Mun-Wuddurs;* but the section of the tribe called *Bhundee-Wuddurs,* who excavate quarries, and make and sell millstones, are not robbers.

10. *Guntee-Chors;* are called also *Oochlés.* They are the *Oothaee Geerees* of Hindoostan, and by us would be called pick-pockets and shop-lifters. They are permanently located in certain villages and districts, but periodically sally forth, attended by their wives and children, on their pilfering trade, and frequent bazars, fairs, and other crowded assemblages, wherein they dexterously contrive to cut off pockets, snatch away ornaments from women and children, and carry off cloth and other goods exposed for sale in shops and stalls. They practise by day, and do not rob at night, or on the highway. Originally, those of the Deccan are stated to have sprung from the Wuddurs.

11. *Bedurs* are, in the Southern Muratha Country, what the *Ramoosees* are in the Deccan, and the *Vasees* in Hindoostan. They live in villages, in general service as sepoys, or as cultivators and labourers. They are also Wutundars* in the capacity of village Tulwars, Naiques, Hullubs, Shetsundees,† and village watchmen generally; but many of them are nevertheless secretly gang robbers and highwaymen. They are also styled *Punjgalls.* They have yet to be inquired into. The bulk of the population of the province of Shorapoor Bedur consists of Bedurs, or Beruds, as the name is sometimes pronounced.

12. *Jutts* are Mussulmans, and in Hindoostan, as well as frequently in the Deccan, are known as *Mooltanees.* In the Carnatic, including certain portions of the Southern Muratha Country, they are called also *Kummés,* large bodies of whom used to be in the service of the refractory Dessaee‡ of Kitttoor (near Belgaum). Ostensibly they take service, and cultivate lands; but among robbers they are known to be altogether thieves, burglars, gang robbers, horse-

* Landholders on service tenures. † All these are hereditary village officers.

‡ An hereditary provincial title. Named also the Deshmook, or principal provincial officer; formerly an extensive landholder, and having certain rights upon the revenue of the villages that comprised his Deshmookee.—(May 1858.)—C. H.

stealers, cattle-stealers, and highwaymen. They are stated to have been so from long descent, but have yet to come under further observation. They frequent the Southern Muratha Country and the Nizam's country. Many Mooltanee Dacoits have been seized by the Officers of the Department higher up, but where they are a different people.

13. *Chuppur* or *Chapah-Bunds* are Mussulmans, and some of the calling too are Telingees and Kongahs. They reside in fixed villages, particularly in the valley of the Krishna river, in the neighbourhood of Chimulgee and Moodebehal. They periodically sally forth and utter counterfeit coins, at making and passing which they are most expert and cunning. They spread everywhere in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, and in the Nizam's country, penetrating even up into Hindoostan. They have already been especially reported on.*

14. *Ramoosees* are village watchmen, receiving their regular apportioned village 'huks' or rights, for the performance of such duties. They undertake to track up all robbers, failing in which they used to have, according to old custom, to make good *half* the amount of the value of the property plundered,—*to be able to do which, they would go and rob some one else!* Some are cultivators, but secretly they are gang robbers, highwaymen, and burglars; and they often commit murder when engaged in robbery. They exist everywhere in the Nuggur and Poona districts. They are not essentially, however, the Bedurs already noticed, though similarly employed, and many, like them, are hereditary robbers.

15. *Kathhurree,*—makers of catechu, which is produced by the destructive distillation of the 'khair' tree, or *memosa capchu;* they also make charcoal, collect gums, and frequently take service as farm-helpers: but in this they are inconstant, leaving their employment without reason, and sometimes without wages. They are nomadic during the fine season; and in the rains they settle down in small huts near villages, and cultivate gourds of kinds, and some little rice. *Towar* appears to be their residence during the rains; but, as soon as the crops are housed, they resort to the jungle to make charcoal, &c. They are not admitted to the rights of Hindoos. The women wear large strings of white and other beads about their necks, and, though not so industrious as the men, are still to be found working as labourers for the Koonbee or cultivator. They commit petty thefts of grain, fowls, &c., and occasionally rob a benighted traveller of his clothes. The number of this tribe is small, and I think they are allied to the Dhêrs.

16. *Katorees,* an aboriginal race of very diminutive men, infesting the hills and wilds of the Northern Konkun, and known as *Maila Bheels.* They are incorrigible robbers and highwaymen, pretending to sell firewood, forage,

* Vide the imperfectly compiled report regarding them in Vol. II. of Selections from the Records of the Government of Bombay in the Police Branch of the Judicial Department.

charcoal, and wild honey, &c. and to take labour. They are of low caste, and are not allowed to reside within any village. There is always great mortality among them whenever they become imprisoned. They differ in little from the Kathkurrees.

17. *Pardhees.*—These often reside in villages, and are village watchmen, like the Ramoosees. Such men pretend to be the peaceable portion of the tribe of Pardhees well known as travelling 'shikarees,' snaring and selling game, and living by the proceeds. They have matchlocks, swords, and spears, and hunt large game; but they are bold, and very indefatigable robbers, climbing over the highest walls. They are to be found in Khandeish and Berar; they go long distances to commit robberies, and are said often to attack and plunder treasuries.

18. *Bheels,* like the Ramoosees, live in villages, and are watchmen; but rob and thieve as often as opportunities offer. They inhabit Khandeish, and the hilly ranges beyond it. Those located between the Taptee and the Satpoora Hills, north of Surat, are known as *Wahwehs* or *Wusawehs,* who are great robbers, and have been especially reported upon by me.*

19. *Oochlé-Kaikarees* form another branch of the Kaikaree tribe, and, like the Oochlés before noticed (No. 10), are bazar thieves and pick-pockets. Their homes are in villages, like the *Gam-Kaikarees.* They attend fairs, bazars, &c., and contrive in the crowd to snatch away ornaments and other property. Both men and women are so employed, and even their children. They travel about on such excursions, and are to be found in the Poona and Sattara districts.

20. *Bamptés,* another well known class of petty thieves. They look like Murathas, and they reside principally in villages, where they have fields, as a pretence only. When on their expeditions, they assume the garb of Brahmins, wear large 'pŭgrees,' and visit bazars and such crowded places, in the same manner as the Oochlés. They have the address to be allowed to sit near Brahmins or other respectable persons at their shops, while conversing with whom, they adroitly manage to appropriate anything valuable that may be within reach; they alight also where travellers may be, and get to sit and talk with them, and then pilfer them in the same way. They infest the country about Meritch, Tasgaum, Kolapore, Sholapore, Poona, Sattara, &c., and are the expertest of the light-fingered gentry.

21. *Bazeegurs* are Lingayuts, live in villages, and cultivate lands. Seven eight, nine, or ten of them repair in a body, magnificently dressed, to the great fairs or markets, with rings on their fingers, and valuable necklaces round

* Vide Vol. I. of Selections from the Records of Government in the Police Branch of the Judicial Department, page 46.

their necks. One or two of the gang pretend to be Sowkars,* and, seemingly as such, establish their booth next to that of some rich merchant, come, like them, to the fair, displaying bales of fine and valuable cloths. The leader of the gang then, taking with him plenty of ready money, repairs, accompanied by his people, to the shop of some cloth merchant, and pretends to wish to make large purchases of cloth. This leads the merchant to open his bales; in looking over the contents of which the pretended purchaser dexterously contrives to pass down to his associates, who stand by pretending not to belong to him, one or two piece goods from each bale he inspects, which they pass on to others standing at different intervals in the bazar. In the meanwhile, the pretended merchant officiously packs up each bale, so that the real owner does not know of what may have become extracted therefrom, till two or three days subsequently he considers it necessary to count over their contents. These people travel about, in the above manner, in the Sholapore and Akulkote countries, and in the Nizam's territories and elsewhere.

22. *Teen-nāmees* are stated to be a class of Thugs of the caste of those Gosains, who mark their foreheads with *three* streaks of paint, indicating that they are the 'teen-nāmee' or *three-named* Gosains—a peculiar race of those religious mendicants who have three names. They dress scantily like the Gosains, and go about holding a cane in one hand, and an alms-dish in the other, and a bag hanging over a shoulder. They answer all inquiries by declaring to be going to Kasee (Benares) or to Ramêswur (Ceylon), or to be returning therefrom; and they will live for several months in some large town or other, observing what Sowkars are in the habit of despatching bullion, &c.; and when the 'Rokurrias'† (called in Bombay 'Angrias'), or men entrusted with the conveyance of such treasure, sally forth therewith, they follow them, and, ingratiating themselves into their confidence, often manage, like the more regular Thugs, to strangle and kill them. They dispose of the corpses in *round* holes, Thugs using *oblong* ones, which is the chief distinguishing feature between them. Over these graves they will alight for several days, cooking their food there, &c., and at length, when all signs of the earth cracking or sinking, where the interment has been made, have been carefully corrected, they depart with their booty. These people are said to travel in all directions, and to be met with everywhere; but though the Assistant General Superintendent has often met men of this tribe, such as they are or seem to be, he has not yet had any cause to believe that the men above described really now exist, whatever they may have done before; although all his approvers say that they still do occasionally murder solitary travellers as above, when a Native of any distant province, and not likely to be missed.

* Bankers and merchants are so called.

† Ready money and bullion carriers.

23. *Gand-Biggarèes* are also stated to be a class of Thugs, in the garb of Gosains, wearing clothes of the colour of turmeric. They go about with 'cower' baskets,* containing expressed oils, and other liquid drugs, selling the same. They travel in bodies of from ten to twenty, having 'pals' or tents when they alight anywhere. They, too, are stated to practise Thuggee, after the fashion of the Teen-nāmees, viz. those who *pretend* to be Gand Biggarees, and vendors of physic.

24. *Mhang-Ramoosees*, like the Ramoosees, reside at villages, and serve as watchmen, for which duties they have village claims on which to subsist; but these too are gang robbers, burglars, and highwaymen, as well as very dexterous in colouring and passing off brass and other metals for gold. They belong to the Sattara, Poona, Kolapore, the Moghullai, and other countries. They have lately been found to be '*pucka Dacoits*,' and have been mentioned by the Assistant General Superintendent in his last Annual Report (for 1851).

25. *Pêr-Mhangs* are those Mhangs who, like the other village Dhêrs, reside outside of a village. They make ropes of leather and hemp, and beat tom-toms, and are Wutundars, and, as such, have their official 'nemnooks' or authorised claims accordingly; but they too are robbers, &c., and are well known as such. They reside principally in the Sholapore Zilla, as well as in the Ahmednuggur, Poona, Sattara, Kolapore, and other countries.

26. *Garôdee-Mhangs* are altogether wanderers and showmen, and jugglers and conjurors; but they also are robbers, and gain information of good places to rob, by performing as above before Sowkars or other rich persons; but these do not rob on the highways, or dig into houses like the common burglars. They are to be met with everywhere, and the Bhat or Khunjur Dacoits of Hindoostan are said to have originally been a branch tribe of them.

27. *Arré-Madgur-Mhangs*, like the Pêr-Mhangs, alight outside of villages. They are tanners, curriers, and shoemakers, and are also said to be robbers; they are to be met with in the Sholapore country, and about Punderpoor and Ahmednuggur, and in the Nizam's country.

28. *Chutturguttees* are picture painters. They have 'pôtees' or books full of all kinds of pictures and portraits, which they go about showing, and chaunting verses in explanation of the story or tradition of each, by which means they contrive to gain information of good places where to commit robberies; and which, associated with Bagrees, and often with the Deccan Kaikarees, they commit at night accordingly. They also are burglars, but never go armed on such occasions, except with a long stick or 'lathee.' Many infest the Northern Konkun.

29. *Bangrias or Bagrees* are also wanderers. Apparently they are fisher-

* 'Cower baskets' are baskets that are carried upon the shoulders, suspended one at each end of a bamboo.

men, and darners of woollen kumblees, and beggars; some, too, rear and sell buffaloes. They are robbers and burglars, and the oftenest associated with the Chutturguttees, in whose company, too, they are to be met with travelling about. The Bangria Dacoits of Hindoostan are not the same people. Below the Gunga river, *i. e.* in the Konkun, Sawunt Waree, and Goa countries, these Bangrias are called *Thakoors*, and are not believed to rob in those tracts.

30. *Dowree-Gosains* are a class of religious mendicants, some of whom are vagabonds, while others have fixed residences. They go about for alms in bodies, beating the while the 'dowra,' or peculiar drum they are recognised by, and are named after. They are both gang robbers and burglars. They are also called *Mênd-Yogees*, and are to be met with everywhere.

31. *Josees*, a class of wanderers, are beggars and fortune-tellers, pretending not only to divine the future, but venturing also to say what have already been the histories of those they beguile. By such means, they gain access to the houses of respectable and wealthy persons, and plan their robberies accordingly, which they commit at night. They often associate themselves, on such occasions, with the Dowree-Gosains. They use only lathees or sticks. They are called also *Boorboorkés*, from a kind of sounding instrument upon which they play when in honest disguise.

32. *Muratha-Bunjarees* reside at villages, and serve as watchmen, and cultivate fields. Really, most are gang robbers, burglars, and horse-stealers. At day-time they are often mounted highwaymen, robbing treasure or convoys of goods, &c. They keep good horses. They mostly reside in the Nizam's territories, where they are also called *Kôlies*.

33. *Tukhārees* are wanderers, travel in gangs, and are Mussulmans. Apparently they are makers of 'chekkies' or grinding-stones, and donkey rearers, but they are gang robbers and burglars. During the hot weather, some of their gangs visit the Konkun, and in the rains they keep about the neighbourhood of Ahmednuggur, the Bala Ghaut, &c. Many of these have been seized by the Department.

34. *Kolhatees* are wanderers, but some, by way of greater secrecy, reside at villages, serving as watchmen. Their women are prostitutes, but are not the same women more generally known as *Kolatnees* (the common dancing-women of the Deccan). They keep packs of dogs for hunting purposes, but they are great Dacoits, and highwaymen, but are not burglars. They infest Berar and Khandeish, and many have been arrested by the Department. They are not those of this class who are known as *Son Chirrees*, who, both men and women, are tumblers, and walk on stilts, dance on ropes, &c. The Kolhatee Dacoits are properly the *Dookhur Kolhatees*, eating *pigs*, and pretending to live by making and selling combs made of bone.

35. *Takinkars* live at villages, having the appearance of being common Muratha Koonbees. Ostensibly they are menders of millstones (like the Kaikarees), night guards, and shikarees; but they are gang robbers, burglars, and rob on the roads. By going about pretending to mend chekkies, they get their information as to what houses to attack and rob. They infest the Khandeish, Berar, and Moghullai countries, and of them, too, several have been seized by the Department. They use spears, matchlocks, and swords.

36. *Bhats* are the *Khunjurs* of Goondwana, and the *Sansees* or *Sansiahs* of Hindoostan. They are the most desperate of all Dacoits, and go about in the Deccan as though belonging to the class of people known as *Guzerathee Dombarees*, or showmen. They are a very bold people, and their hour for committing a gang robbery, whether upon the house of a Sowkar or upon any Government treasury, is invariably nightfall. They have now been nearly all suppressed by the Department.

37. *Kalbhêlas* travel about in the disguise of Jogees and Gosains, selling medicines; and accompanied by their tattoos, asses, and bullocks. Their women are dressed like those of the Bhats. They too are gang robbers. They get their information by going about as vendors of medicinal drugs, and as beggars. After committing any robbery, they quickly bury their booty and disperse, and, two or three months subsequently, they contrive to recover the plunder, which then is taken to their encampment, where it is divided. To be met with in Berar and Barahuttee, &c. Their arms are spears.

38. *Purdesee-Newatees* are a class of wandering Mussulmans. They take service with Sowkars as sepoys, and after some little time a gang is assembled, and their masters robbed. They also keep horses, and are often also burglars. They infest Hindoostan, Malwa, and Guzerat.

39. *Khutboos* are a tribe of wanderers, who, of an evening, exhibit figures of men and women that are made to dance, and to act; they also catch fish. Their women are very expert at tattooing, or making representations in gunpowder on the arms, &c. of any one wishing it, as done by sailors, and they are called therefore *Putchas*. Are everywhere in the Deccan, and are called also *Kheelee-Kyunturs*. They are not robbers or thieves.

40. *Doorgee-Murgee-Wallas* are also wanderers. Both men and women go about with wooden images of idols, dressed up with ornaments made of brass. They deposit these in coloured boxes and in baskets, which are carried about by their women, or upon buffaloes, and by exhibiting which they beg money. The men carry whirligigs, which they spin round and round, and they pretend to strike their bodies with a kind of whip, and play upon tom-toms, and so beg alms. They are not robbers. Are everywhere in the Deccan.

41. *Wâid-Gôlhs* are travelling quacks, dressed in turmeric-coloured clothes.

They sell drugs and medicines. Their women beg, and their children are ventriloquists. They are not robbers. *Passim.*

42. *Khur-Khur-Moondés* are also wanderers. They smear their mouths and breasts with food, as though afflicted with vomiting fits, and in that way they quickly get alms, by disgusting beholders, who are glad to get them to move off. They are not robbers. May be often met with.

43. *Gissārees* are wandering blacksmiths. They sometimes rob in the Konkun, but are not generally robbers, though some are often in the secret of gang robbers, whose spears, &c. they sometimes make up for any meditated robbery, as was done on the occasion of the dacoity by Bhât and Lumbanee Dacoits at Bagulkote, in November 1845.

44. *Dhôwurs* are travelling smelters, and make baking-pans. Are generally to be met with in the Sattara country, in the Konkun, and on the Ghauts, and wherever iron ore may be found.

45. *Dhâsrees* are wanderers. They dress themselves fantastically, and dance before people of a night; at day they beg, and are everywhere.

46. *Dombarees* are travelling showmen, and rope-dancers, both men and women, and walk on stilts. Their women are the *Son Cheerees* before mentioned (under No. 34). *Passim.*

47. *Phansee Pardhees* are the prototypes of those Pardhees who are above shown (under No. 17) to be gang robbers. They are only travelling shikarees, poor and ill clad. They snare game—peacocks, partridges, quail, antelope, &c.

48. *Zāt-Gāhs* are a wandering tribe of Mussulmans. They are wrestlers and tumblers. At night they assume women's clothes, and dance before crowds.

49. *Soorga-Siddees* are travelling jugglers, and mimicks. They wear huge turbans, ornamented with peacocks' feathers, and bedaub their faces like so many clowns and pantaloons.

50. *Jogees* are pedlars and hawkers, selling pins, needles, looking-glasses, beads, &c. It is stated that some of these are occasionally Thugs. My predecessor, the late Captain Burrows, thought so, and arrested a great number of them, but without any results.

51. *Garodees* are Mussulmans, and snake-charmers. They wander about as such, with tame snakes in baskets, and generally a large rock-snake entwined about their body, or carried in their hands.

52. *Luskurree Seekulgurs* are Mussulmans, and a class of wanderers, going about in bodies of from ten to twenty men, who encamp together outside of villages like the Kaikarees, &c. They make sheaths for swords, and sharpen and polish swords and other weapons, &c.

53. *Brinjaras* are those Lumbanees who go about with large convoys of cattle, laden with grain and other goods, in which they deal. Several, too, deal in cattle, large droves of which they bring down from the Deccan, and from Khandeish. Many of them are important Sowkars. It is their disguise that the Lumbanee Dacoits assume. They possess a very fine breed of dogs, of the large hound species.

54. *Chirree-Mars* are bird-catchers from the Coast of Madras; properly they are Korwees; they talk Teleegoo. They get advances of money for feathers, and then sally forth in bodies of from ten to twenty, stretching right across the peninsula, and into the Konkun, &c., catching principally king-fishers, the skins of which they take to the Madras Coast, from where they are exported to China, and there made into those fans, and other feathered ornaments that are imported to India and Europe. They are gang robbers as often as they find the opportunity to be so. They take with them supplies of *nux vomica* and other poisons, which they use as antidotes to bites from snakes in the swamps of the Konkun, where principally they find the birds abovementioned, and they seem to care little when bitten by a snake.

55. *Dukkulwars* are travelling basket-makers and beggars. They have some old established village huks from the Mhangs.

56. *Punchpôtres* are wandering beggars, getting their alms exclusively from carpenters, blacksmiths, and goldsmiths.

57. *Gopalls* travel about in parties of ten or twelve, and, like the Dombarees and Phailwans, are showmen. They are also called *Irgopalls*, and are to be frequently met. They are not robbers.

58. *Bhondé-Koomars* are also wanderers. They alight outside of villages. They make figures, in mud, of horses, elephants, &c., which they sell, also 'hooka chillums' for smoking purposes. They are not robbers.

59. *Chāruns* are traders, travelling about with large droves of pack-bullocks. They visit the Konkun, where they make their purchases, which they convey to the interior and dispose of. They also purchase, and bring down from Guzerat and Malwa, large herds of cattle, which they sell as they travel along. They are also called *Hêrahs*. A great many of them reside in Kattywar. Each man is generally armed with a spear, a sword, and a buckler. They have the same appearance as the trading Brinjaras from Khandeish. Their habits as robbers have yet to be ascertained; though they are believed to be Dacoits.

60. *Sir-Bhungees* are also wanderers, and are like the Gosains. They use human skulls from which to drink water. They are also a kind of conjurors, pretending by tricks to produce milk, liquor, fire, or such like from their mouths. In the skulls they mix up urine and 'goor,' or sugar, which they drink as a dram; by doing which, and by squatting before houses as if to

ease nature, they extort gifts, in order to be rid of the nuisance they cause. They are believed to be also gang robbers. They are also called *Aghôrees.*

61. *Nundee-Wallas* are also wanderers, and teach bullocks, &c. to do whatever they are bid; by exhibiting which they earn their livelihood. They are not robbers.

62. *Bunder-Wallas* are wanderers, and monkey showmen. There are two tribes of these people—one, a section of Kaikarees; and the other are Mussulmans.

63. *Junglee-Sonars* are journeymen smiths; they make rings and other ornaments, which they go about selling, accompanied by their donkeys.

64. *Bhowré* or *Bhoogré-Khillanéwallas* are wandering beggars. They beg by exhibiting huge spinning tops (or 'bhowras' or 'bhoogras'), during the revolutions of which they observe a profound silence, as though absorbed by the performances.

65. *Párôts* go about with models, in wood, of temples of various kinds, which at night they illuminate with lamps and torches, and play music, and sound conches in front of them, and so collect money and subsist; their women beg by day. They alight outside of villages.

66. *Yergôlhs* go about selling frankincense, sandalwood, kokum, &c. These are different from the Yergôlhs mentioned under No. 2, though these too are more commonly to be met with in the Madras country, in the neighbourhood of Seringapatam. But they are constantly to be seen in Bombay also—a few are generally daily seated in the Fort within the Bazar Gate, with their drugs, roots of trees, human bones, dried locusts and lizards, and other specifics for every known ailment, lying scattered round about them.

67. *Mool-Dhásurs* wear large pŭgrees, and go about collecting money by standing bare-footed upon thorns, and by pricking and wounding their bodies with divers instruments. During such performances, they keep up a kind of music, by blowing through shells, and tapping a kind of gong.

68. *Khunjurs* are a race of men who are rope-spinners, and make foot-mats of coir—a very useful people; while another tribe so called rear and sell tattoos, and steal them too. The Sansiah Dacoits, where thought to be Khunjurs, pretend to be the latter people.

69. *Chowras* are a tribe of *Bhamptés,* very expert in robbing people while on horseback, in fairs, 'juthras,' and crowded places. They disdain to attempt to steal everything they can get, as the Bhamptés do, and will only be tempted by what is valuable, and to rob respectable persons, with which view they themselves dress respectably. There is a colony of them at Jamkher, near Ahmednuggur.

70. *Hurdass* are connected with the *Chutturguttees.* Some Hurdasses

form a part of the establishment of a Muratha family, and are its story-tellers, reading and chaunting 'kuthas' or pleasant tales, for the amusement of its members. It is said of the great Sivajee, that he was always very fond of attending the assemblies of these kutha readers. It is a favourite Muratha pastime; and the advent of a Huridass in a village is hailed with much pleasure, and he is listened to by a large audience, till often quite a late hour. They are not robbers, but go about in small parties.

71. *Phailwans* are a tribe of wandering Mussulmans. They exhibit as wrestlers and gladiators, and are very athletic, performing remarkable feats in gymnasties, sword exercise, &c. Many of them are also very expert at all kinds of tricks and displays of legerdemain. Their children are very intelligent and agile. These men are honest.

(Signed) C. Hervey, Captain,
Assistant General Superintendent.

*Assistant General Superintendent's Office,*
*Belgaum, 26th May* 1852.

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